leading to 1017

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■ SPORTS / A25 Pagunsan thwarts Miñoza in sudden death, pockets P1.2M



Taekwondo gives howling Sokor grannies a big kick



SEOUL-AT 74, THERE are several things that warm the heart of Ji Bok-hyun, such as seeing her grandchildren smile and pounding her fist through wooden tiles.

Il is one of a group of 23 South Korean grand-TAEKWONDO/ A19

Monday, February 27, 2006

emet feedback@inquirer.com.ph

6 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 81

Cory barred entry to Marine camp

By Tony Bergonia

FORMER PRESIDENT CORAZON AQUINO WAS stopped on her way to Fort Bonifacio last night in what she said was a mission to offer prayers for a proup of Marines protesting the reilef of their

"We need prayers to resolve this peacefully," said Aquino, who had called for the resignation of

Declaration of freedom

ROCLAMATION 1017 ASserts, without proof, that some members of the national media have "recklessly magnified" the "claims" of alleged conspirators. But an examination of the context in which that assertion is made

FO TORIAL

shows us that what the Arroyo administration

really wants is to prevent opposing views from being published or criticism from being aired. (The use of the word "claims" is telling. Given that the actual plot to seize power has been reportedly aborted, the word can only refer to unflattering news and anti-Arroyo views, already published or aired.)

That makes Proclamation 1017 a declaration of war on the Bill of Rights. In the guise of saving the Republic from an unholy alliance of "authoritarians" on the left and "adventurists" on the right allegedly conspiring with opportunists from the opposition, the President has launched an assault on our very civil liberties.

EDITORIAL/AI4

1017: Press main target

By Amando Doronila

MACAPAGAL-ARROYO'S PRESIDENT proclamation of a state of national emergency on Friday has pushed the Philippines into the twilight zone of a failed democracy.

The failure of democracy was starkly highlighted by the swift crackdown on targeted political "enemies of the state" following the announcement of Proclamation No. 1017 on Friday

morning. Before ink of the President's signature on the proclamation had dried, police arrested two on the government's list of at least 10 people alleged to be part of the "tactical alliance" of mainstream opposition politicians, "military adventurers" and communist rebels "engaged in a concerted and systematic conspiracy to bring down the duly



HEAVILY ARMED Marine officers secure their headquarters in Fort Bonifacio after Col. Ariel Querubin protests the "unexplained" relief of the Marine communicant, Haj. Gen. Renato Miranda.

MAN OF THE HOUR Querubin (left) with Marine Lt. Col. Aquiles Segunian surrounded by civilian supporters.

Marine standoff

at Bonifacio over

Restive troops return to barracks

By Alcuin Papa, Dona Z. Pazzibugun, Tarra V. Quismundo and TJ Burgonio

DISGRUNITLED MARINES YESTERDAY PROTESTED THE RELIEF OF their commander but went back to barracks after a tense six-hour standoff, ending a potentially damaging challenge to President Macapagal-Arroyo when their calls for people power went largely ignored.

Former President Corazon Aquino came, but was stopped about a kilometer away by a police barricade at the Marine headquarters in Fort Bonifacio. (See related story at top of this page.)

Col. Ariel Ouerubin, the leader of the protest, said he was acting to protest the relief of Marine commandant Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda.

The new Marine commandant, Brig. Gen. Nelson Allaga, announced the end of the standoff, saying "we will follow the chain of command; we will follow the Constitution and the duly constituted authority."

Querubin stood beside his new commandant when the announcement was made.

Later, Querubín said be recognized Allaga as

his new commandant. "We're leaving," he said. "To all those who came here, I thank you very much."

The restive Marines returned to barracks shortly after Allaga's announcement, which came after a private meeting with Queruhin.

Allaga stepped out of the building and told reporters: "I am now acting commandant of the Marines. The Philippine Marine Corps is solid ... We will not allow ourselves to be used by politicians.

The orders for the Marines here are to go home tonight," he said,

Allaga said he had talked to the various unit commanders of the Marines.

Asked where General Miranda was, Allaga said Miranda was inside the building and refused to come out.

On any action to be taken against Querubin, Aliega said: "That's all up to me and you don't have to know about that."

Palace lets AFP resolve crisis at Fort Boni

By Christine Avendaño

MACAPAGAL-ARROYO PRESIDENT stayed away from the standoff at the Marine beadquarters and left it to the defense department and the Armed Forces of the Philippines to resolve, Malacañang said last night.

Minutes after newly installed Marine commandant Brig. Gen. Nelson Aliaga announced that the standoff was over, Defense Secretary Aveling Cruz expressed relief that the Marines managed to resolve the crisis within the institu-

Allaga announced the resolution of the crisis after talking with the rebellious Ariel Querubin behind closed doors with the bemedalled Marine colonel by his

Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor had earlier called for a halt to TV coverage of the Marine base at Fort Bonifacio and appealed to politicians and other civilians gathering there not to

politicize the situation. "Let's not aggravate the situation," Defensor said. He said the Department of National Defense and AFP should be al-

lowed to handle the affair. "If you recall, this is one of the things we said. That there are elements of the

PALACE/ A22

Noli joins protest against crackdown on media

By Alcuin Papa and Luige A. del Puerto

IN THE FIRST SIGN HE IS DISTANCING himself from President Macapagal-Arroyo, Vice President Noli de Castro yesterday said that freedom of speech and of the press should be safeguarded and respected.

De Castro issued the statement amid indignation by local and foreign news or-

a PNP warning that other media groups face the same fare if they violate government media standards.

in a meeting at the NewsDesk Café in Quezon City, the media people stressed that they would not tone down their stories in spite of the declaration of a state of national emergency on Friday.

Carlos Conde of the National Union of

ganizations over the Philippine National Journalists in the Philippines (NUJP)
Police takeover of the Daily Tribune and said Priday's issuance of Proclamation No. 1017 and the warning by PNP Directur General Arturo Lomibao had a "chill-

While we respect the right and power of the President to protect the people and the state from any destabilizing force, the best interest of the greater number of Filipinos must be borne in mind," said De Castro, a veceran radio

and relevision journalist.

"The President should define and prescribe reasonable terms to guide government agencies acting pursuant to ber declaration," De Castro said.

MAI. GEN.

MIRANDA: Like a

"As Vice President and as part of media, I reiterate my stand that the government respect human rights and protect civil liberties, especially freedom of the press. The role of media is that of serving



Muslims were there, too

By Marilen Sidri

THE MUSLIM PARTICIPATION AT EDSAILS A little known fact that has been drowned out by the well-publicized propaganda suggesting it was a shining moment for the Roman Catholic Church only. The fact is, it took Filipinos of all eth-

PEOPLE'S Palace: Every man has a Kodak moment.

THE MEDIA The tears fell 20 years later

By Fernando del Mundo

T IS AMAZING. THE TEARS I held within me during those four days in February finally fell 20 years later as I edited copy from all those wonderful people who shared their stories with us.

At the end of each day the past several weeks, I had a terrible headache.

To those who sent an e-mail, a fax, a let-

ter-thank you very much. The stories are a genuine revelation.

It did not occur to me in 1986 that I could be killed at Camp Aguinaldo-or Camp

Crame later-while reporting on the dra-THE TEARS/ AZI

WEATHERFORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon will experience mostly cloudy

skies with scallered ramshowers. Eastern sections of Visayes and Mindanao will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered ramshowers

and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be parity cloudy to bloudy with isolated rainshowers.

Taclohao Ben. Santys

Partly Cloudy Cloudy with Rains Cloudy with Rains

Another landslide hits S Leyte

ST. BERNARD-A LANDSLIDE HAS HIT ANOTH- the towns of Sognd, Lilo-an and er town in Southern Leyte where the collapse of a mountainside wiped out an entire village, prompting authorities to order a rapid survey of endangered communities, an official said Sunday.

No one was hurt in the latest landslide blamed on weeks of downpours, but officials fear more could occur with intermittent heavy rains continuing over the province.

Some \$50 people from the village of Pamigsian, in Bontoc town, had moved to safer ground when a small landslide hit nearby Priday. Another 30 people from another village in Bontoc also have evacuated, said Southern Leyte Vice Gov. Mike Maamo.

Maamo said three groups of geologists from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau were to conduct a "rapid assessment" of potential landslide areas.

"We don't want to declare that such and such a village is livable or habitable without the clearance or certification from the MGB," Maamo said. "We are hoping in a week's time we will have data on whether the people can still live there."

The Red Cross reported that evacuees from four towns in Southern Leyte reached about 6,700 Sunday, including those who had been moved out before Guinsaugon was engulfed.

The village of Guinsaugon was buried by a landslide on Feb. 17. Officials say 139 bodies have been recovered and 973 people are missing and leared dead.

Before Guinsaugon was hit,

San Francisco had suffered recent landslides. At least eight people were killed in Sogod just a week

The search for survivors has ended in Guinsaugon.

Provincial Gov. Rosette Lerias said retrieval groups will continue . looking for bodies until Thursday. She will then declare the 300hectare wasteland off-limits due to safety and sanitation concerns.

Later, the area will be designated a "sacred sanctuary" where no construction will be allowed, she said. A helicopter will fly a priest over the area to sprinkle holy water to bless it.

US Marines, who have been helping in the search efforts. withdrew most of their forces on the ground Sunday, which peaked at about 600. Marine Capt. Burrel Parmer said a small contingent will remain for hu-

"We will be having a team there trying to provide temporary facilities and other types of assistance to the victims and to the evacuees," he said. "The priority is on rebuilding the lives of those affected by the mudslide."

Marine Col. Walter Lee Miller, the most senior US commander here, said troops and equipment will be kept on US ships "within range ... if I need them back in."

Other international groups also have left, including search teams from Taiwan, Malaysia, Turkey and Spain. A contingent from Indonesia, which will provide mainly medical services to evacuees, will remain for a

St. Bernard Vice Mayor Felix Lim said the local government has found a site for Guinsaugon survivors but is seeking donations because it can't afford to pay for relocating about 280 families or



THREE GIRL-EVACUEES from the Guinsaugon landslide play at an evacuation center in St. Bernard as US Marines load their helicopter in the background preparatory to withdrawing on Sunday after local officials announced the end of the search for survivors.

Guinsaugon folk are victims twice over

By Christian V. Esguerra

ST BERNARD, SOUTHERN Leyte-Stuck in the thick mud and unable to move, a man watched helplessly as a neighbor took his wallet containing P300 and his wristwatch.

Elsewhere in mud-swamped 50-hectare Barangay Guinsaugon, a group of men were dismantling a motorcycle left behind by a resident. They couldn't bodily carry the muddied bike so they opted to cart it away part by part.

Another resident lost a stereo component, still another his Nokia 6610 mobile phone-all to "human vultures" preying on some

victims of the massive landstide that engulfed this small farming village more than a week ago.

These and similar stories of looting are going around amid the misery of the disaster, and for people like 52-year-old Remy Bucio, who survived but lost seven siblings, the looting seems to be just as horrendous as the incomprehensible mudslide.

"It's too much," she told the IN-QUIRER. "Our relatives were there desperately trying to survive, unsure if they would make it. But there were people who were busy doing something else."

Bucio was recounting the stories to other relatives and neighbors in a temporary house located near the town hall. They had left the Cristo Rey School which had been converted into a shelter for those who had lost their homes, saying it had no more room for more people.

Eglecerio Coquilla, 63, said he had pretty much accepted his family's fate. His wife Amelinda, 58, and two of their children had yet to be found. "It's been a week since they were buried in the landslide," he said.

He said what he couldn't accept was the villainy of some residents of neighboring barangays taking advantage of the situation.

Susan Ria, 41, who lost a sister

and a 2-year-old nephew, said a pig owned by a neighbor managed to escape the mud and boulders which swept down from Kan-abag Mountain, but not the knife of one group of enterprising men.

Another complained that he lost a carabao. He soon found our that it had been butchered in a surrounding barangay.

They should not have done that. It didn't belong to them," said Bucio.

Residents of nearby villages Barangays Tambis, Catmon, Ayahag, Sugangon and Magatas-denied that the incidents happened, or that they had heard





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Mountain rescue teams formed against bird flu

BAGUIO CITY-ALTHOUGH THE on the experience we had in conlikelihood that migratory birds infected with the avian influenza would reach the Cordillers is remore, the Office of Civil Defense is taking no chances and is forming an emergency rescue team to protect mountain villages who practice "ikik."

"Ikik" is a bird-catching tradition in Mr. Province and Benguet which is practiced at night.

Senior Supt. Joseph Adnol, chief of the Cordillera police community relations office, said the proposed rescue team would prevent the police from being infected in the event of a bird flu out-

Adnol said the primary role of policemen based in these villages would be to quarantine the communities, and prevent villagers from panicking while awaiting a rescue team to secure the vicinity.

He said the police must learn to deal with the dangers posed by viruses and bacteria. The OCD also wants the Cordillera police to understand the protocol for destroying bird flu-infected chicken, ducks and birds.

We are training people based Northern Luzon Bureau

trolling panic in Baguio due to the outbreak of [the bacterial disease] meningococcemia," said Vicente Tomazar, OCD Cordillera director.

"We must teach the police that the manner of releasing information is important. Meningococcemia in Baguio was an example of how information can be misinterpreted and can generate paranoia," Tomazar said.

Several towns in the Cordillera have issued ordinances banning the practice of "ikik" in the light of the bird flu outbreak that has killed several people in Asia.

Tomazar said the OCD's assessment was that the region will need P2 billion to improve the facilities of four health centers in case of an outbreak.

He said there were enough natural berriers in the Cordillera against bird flu but local governments must be prepared to offer complete medical services to the infected.

He said the region's mountainous terrain is outside the migration paths used by birds fleeing winter in other countries each Vincent Cabresa, PDI уеаг.

Bomb suspect's home raided

CITY-ARMY proopers reportedly raided the house of a suspected bomber in Jolo, Sulu, on Friday night, a police source said.

A police officer who asked not to be identified said the raiders blasted open the door of the home of Mindam Jajala in Panglima Hawani Village in Jolo. The raid was led by soldiers be-

longing to the Jolo Internal Defense Force (JIDF) under 104th Army Brigade commander Brig. Gen. Nehemias Pajarito.

in a relephone interview, Jajala and his 20-year-old daughter Nelde confirmed the raid to the Is-QUIRER.

Mindam said the soldiers rammed their vehicle through their gate and "put bombs on our door that exploded and destroyed our door."

Nelda said she and her younger sisters Jaidam and Julaidam were traumatized by the incident after the 10 armed raiders poked their long firearms at them.

She said the raiders were looking for her brother Junaid, 28, an employee of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Luuk town, who was then asleep at a mosque.

Nelda said one of the raiders, who was wearing a bonnet, spoke English.

"Ang huli kong napansin noong banggitin yung mga salitang (What I tast heard were the words) 'de you want us to diminish the three?" she said.

The raiders hurriedly left upon hearing the siren of an approaching police car, she said.

Senior Supt. Ahirum Ajirim, police chief for Sulu, said they were investigating the incidental

Joint Thak Porce Comet chief Brig. Gen. Alexander Aleo said they had not received a report regarding an explosion on Priday night.

T will have to meet with the JIDF first since they are responsible for the curfew and securing Jolo town at nighttime," Julie Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau

AND AND THE RESIDENCE OF THE RESIDENCE OF THE PARTY OF TH

Prelates warn of martial law, urge end to emergency

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr. - PDI Visayas Bureau and Christian V. Esguerra

ILOILO CITY-THE PRESIDENT of the influential Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) said the proclamation of a state of national emergency by Macapagal-Arroyo President could result in martial law and

Reacting to the arrest of opposition and militant leaders and the raid on a newspaper critical of the administration, Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo said Proclamation 1017 "should be short-lived in order that it may not become a source of violations of human rights.

"The proclamation of a state of emergency may be subject to abuse in the hands of lawgivers. And that is what we should be afraid of in the future," Lag-

dameo told reporters here before celebrating Mass at the Iloilo provincial capitol for the Gawad Kalinga housing project of the archdiocese of Jaro.

Another senior Roman Catholic prelate yesterday also warned of the downfall of the President in the wake of her controversial declaration of a state of emergency.

"If (Ms Arruyo) and her gang do not show results in the direction of purging all perpetrators of

of the poor, this regime will crumble faster and more miserably than the past dictatorship," Lipa Archbishop Ramon Arguelles told the Inquirer in a text message.

On Saturday, authorities arrested Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran and retired Maj. Gen. Ramon Montaño. The police also raided the offices of the opposition paper Daily Tribune before dawn Saturday.

Lagdameo said the people

corruption and improving the lot should "earnestly pray" that the present situation would not result in martial law.

When asked how short the implementation of the state of emergency should be, Lagdameo said: "As short as possible so that the people will not be living in fear."

The voluntary resignation of the President was one of three options the bishops proposed last year to put closure to the political crisis hounding the Arroyo presidency.

Archbishop Oscar Cruz of Lingayen-Dagupan yesterday said he was worried where the current political upheaval, triggered by Ms Arroyo's alleged manipulation of the 2004 elections, could be heading.

You see, the place where Filipinos can move around is getting narrower," he said in Filipino in an interview over the Church-run Radio Veritas. "The people are not enjoying freedom. It is instead getting even more curtailed."

After 1017, Senate cancels hearing on fertilizer fund

By T] Burgonio

THE SENATE PANEL LOOKING INTO THE alleged misspending of the P728-million fertilizer fund canceled its last hearing set for today for fear some of the resource persons from farmers' groups would be arrested following the declaration by President Macapagal-Arroyo of a state of national emergency.

The Senare committee on agriculture and food, chaired by Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., decided to ask the resource persons to instead submit affidavits in order that the panel could draft its final report.

Invited to today's hearings were Danilo Ramos of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas and four other farmers from other groups, three local officials, and regional directors of the Commission on Audit, among

"We've found ourselves in a tight fix. It a looks like some of the witnesses are going to be arrested," a staffer of the committee said. He was referring to Ramos and four other farmers, who are supposedly on the list of persons to be arrested or questioned by the authorities.

"We don't want that to happen to these people," he said, adding that the committee had received information that the farmers would be picked up by either police or military authorities if they showed up at the Sen-

The cancellation came a day after the police arrested Anakpawis party-list Rep.

Crispin Beltran based on a warrant issued on Oct. 7, 1985, in connection with a charge of inciting to sedition.

Malacañang defended the arrest of Beltran as part of ongoing efforts to go after eight to 10 people supposedly part of an alliance of politicians, military adventurists and communist rebels plotting to topple the administra-

The President on Friday issued Proclamation No. 1017 and placed the country under a state of national emergency after the military uncovered the plot.

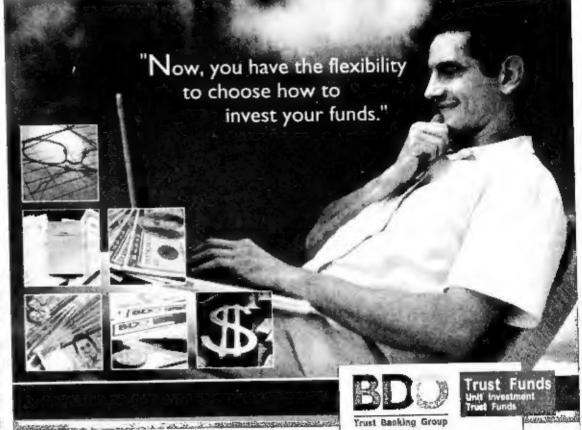
Earlier in the day, Magsaysay said the committee was pushing ahead with the inquiry on the alleged misuse of the fertilizer fund in the run-up to the May 2004 presidential elections despite the volatile situa-

But even without the testimonies of Ramos and the other resource persons, the committee was close to completing its report, including its recommendations, and hoped to present it to Senate President Franklin Drilon this

"So far we have established that there was a well-laid plan to extract sums from the fertilizer fund for other permissy purposes," Magsaysay said.

The fund, placed under the supervision of then Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn Jocjoc" Bolante, was believed to have been distributed as largesse to allies of Ms Arroyo to ensure her victory in the 2004 presidential

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After surgery, Erap urges GMA HOUSE BLODERKAGE --to step down By Edson C. Tandoc Jr. BARELY OUT OF SURGERY ON HIS LEFT eye, former President Joseph Estrada yesterday urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to

withdraw her declaration of a state of national emergency and step down.

"I call on the Arroyo regime to withdraw the declaration of the state of national emergency and listen to the majority of our people and step down," said Estrada in a statement in Filipino which his son, Sen. Jinggoy Estra read before reporters yesterday afternoon.

The ousted President, who is on trial on plunder and perjury charges, stood quietly behind his son as the latter read the one-page statement in the lobby of the San Juan Medical Center, where Estrada underwent eye surgery on Saturday night.

Baseless arrests

"I am now held by the Arroyo regime and they can do anything they want to me. But they cannot imprison my stand and my beliefs," Estrada said.

He also called on the administration to 'stop the baseless arrest of its enemies, stop the dispersal of protests and stop threatening the media and other sectors who are fighting against the looming dictatorship."

He asked the national police and the military "not to be used against the welfare of the people and to fight for the motto of the Philippine Military Academy, which is courage, integrity and loyalty to the country."

Members of the Police Security and Protection Office detailed at the hospital were around when Jinggoy read the statement.

Surgeons removed two cysts from Estrada's left eye in an operation that began at 7:25 p.m. on Saturday. His personal physician, Dr. Lorenzo Hocson, told the Inquirer the operation was over in 30 minutes.

8-year-old cysts

Hocson said Estrada may have had the cysts for as long as eight years. Surgeons found the cysts when Estrada underwent treatment at the hospital two weeks ago for an eye infection and to remove excess skin from his eyelids. They decided not to remove the cysts then to prevent infection to his eyes,

But three days ago, Estrada complained of pain in his eyes. The Sandiganbayan granted him another medical furlough.

The operation was originally scheduled for Priday night but the operating physician, Dr. Amadeo Veloso, decided to treat the infection first before operating on Estrada on Saturday night.

Hocson said Estrada could leave the hospical on Tuesday.

Estrada also urged former President Fidel V Ramos to make up his mind about withdrawing support from President Arroyo.

"Why is he taking so long to make up his mind?" Estrada said. With Nelson R. Flores

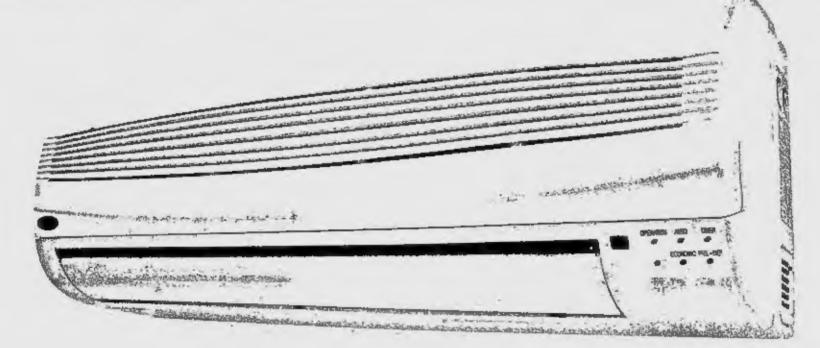


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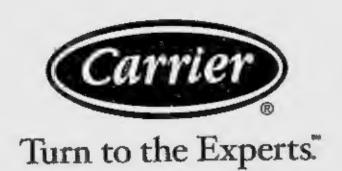
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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2006

Baguio fest offers break from anxiety

BAGUIO CITY-THE BAGUIO FLOWER FEStival known as Panagbenga over the weekend provided local residents and tourists a few hours respite from the anxieties created by President Macapagal-Arroyo's declaration of

a state of national emergency on Friday.

Except for the presence of Surigao del Sur
Rep. Prospero Pichay, a staunch ally of Ms Arroyo, and a banner describing the flower festival as "petals for love, peace and unity," visi-tors like 70-year-old Luther Arboleda said the two-day festival was "just the right antidote to what's happening in Manila."

The first parade of the festival was held on Saturday and the second yesterday. They were organized by Mayor Braulio Yaranon and lawyer Damaso Bangaoet Jr., Panagbenga founder, respectively.

"I like this atmosphere in Baguio. Everyone is happy. They don't mind what's happening [in Manila]. That is really why we come up here for the festivals. It makes us forget [our political troubles]," said Arboleda, a ratired police senior superintendent (colonel) who now evangelizes over Camp Aguinaldo's Armed Forces Radio dwDD.

The parades coincided with the 20th year anniversary celebration of the 1986 Edsa revok, but the Saturday parade started out subdued.

"Our parade is definitely propagating peace. We only want peace," said an elementary school teacher here who led her students in the street dancing.

Like previous festivals, this latest staging of Panagbenga provided an array of colors and

choreography. A police helicopter dropped rose petals as parade participants marched toward Session Road, the city's main street.

Elementary and high school students from various schools prenced in colorful body suits, played musical instruments wearing flower masks, and wore crowns and sun hats shaped like flower petals.

The parades gave the city's tourism industry a boost. Hotels estimated a 50 percent increase in bookings.

Actress Judy Ann Santos was on a float sponsored by a pawnshop. The festival also raised funds for the sur-

vivors of the Southern Leyte landslide. Inmares at the Baguio City jail made 300 lamps they called "Hope Floats," which Jollibee Baguio manager Luz Cusi sold to tourists.

Vincent Cabresa, PDI Northern Lusion Bureau

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Chronology of events leading to 1017

(The following chronology of events that led to the proclamation by President Macapagal-Arroyo of a state of national emergency an Friday was provided to the INQUIRer by Malacahang.-Ed.)

PROCLAMATION No. 1017 WAS issued to thwart a conspiracy to overthrow the government among the communist rebel movement, certain military officers and some members of the opposition. The following is a chronology of events leading to the proclamation of a state of national emergency:

BEFORE THE WEEK OF 19-25 FEBRUARY 2006

Anti-Arroyo Groups Planned Massive Protests

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Philippines (CPF) directed front organizations to stage mass protests on 24 February, with 5,000 participants from Metro Mamia and 25,000 from nearby provinces.

"CPP-linked groups mount lightning railies from 17 to 22 February, in recent weeks, CPP's New People's Army intensify attacks on government troops.

"Bayan Muna leader Cong. Satur Ocumpo said the aims of the protests is to coalesce with other anti-Arroyo groups, including the pro-Estrada and Hyatt 10 camps; and establish a renewed relationship with former president Cory Aquino.

"On 20 February in Alex Grill, Matalino St., Quezon City, the Black and White Movement, Akbayan, and other anti-Arroyo

songs

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groups announced plans to march 20,000 protesters on 22 Pebruary around Metro Manifa, converge at the People Power Monument on 23 February, and possibly move to Mendiola on 24 February

"Pro-FPJ groups under Susan Roces declared that they would join anti-Arroyo protests on 24 February, at the People Power Monument and Mendiola.

"Pro-Estrada/PPJ supporters hold daily vigils and masses at the People Power Monument since 12 February

Emerging Alliance Between Rebel Soldiers and Communist Insurgents

"On 17 January, four officers among the Magdalo group on trial for the 2003 Oakwood muting,

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escaped military custody.

"New People's Army spokesperson Ka Roger Rosal offered sanctuary to the four escaped Magdalo rebel soldiers.

A captured document titled "Oplan Hackle" detailed plans for bombings and attacks starting on the Philippine Military Academy akumi homecoming on 18 Pebruary.

"The Hackle document also included a plan to spring more Magdalo soldiers.

"On 21 February one of the escaped soldiers, Lr. Lawrence San Juan, was arrested while plotting with two NPA figures in a communist safehouse in Batangas province.

Documents of the Magdalo-NPA meeting were captured and would be declassified.

23 FEBRUARY/THURS-DAY

Plot to oust President Arroyo

In an evening meeting at the home of former congressman Peping Coluangoo, Cory Aquino's brother, businessmen and mid-level officials plotted moves to bring down the Arroyo administration.

"As reported by Time Magazine, longtime Arroyo critic Pastor "Boy" Saycon called someone whom he identified as a US official about his group's plans if President Arroyo is ousted.

"Saycon also phoned a man code-named Delta, whom Saycon identified as B/Gen. Danilo Lim, commander of the Army's elite Scout Rangers. Lim said it was "all systems go" for the planned movement against President Arroyo.

"According to Saycon, Time reported, a military component was to march on Priday morning to the Edsa Shrine, near the People Power Monument where protests were to converge.

"At the Shrine, Time said, the troops would be met by Catholic bishops and a Marine general. The general would read a statement withdrawing support from the Arroyo administration.

Threat to the Military Chain of Command

"Late that afternoon, meanwhile, B/Gen. Lim and Marine brigade commander Col. Ariei Querubin told AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga that restive young officers and soldiers planned to join rallies on 24 Rebruary, so as to provide critical mass and the armed compopent to the protests.

"Lim and Querubin said they might not be able to dissuade these troops from their plan, and there were indications that the two may also join them.

"After Lim and Querubin left. Gen. Senga discussed the probiem with the Army, Navy and Air

Porce commanding generals.

"Lim and Querubin were called to join the top-brass meeting and advised to stop troops from joining the protests, but they did not seem willing to do so.

"After Lim and Querubin left, Gen. Senga and the major service commanders took steps to secure the AFP chain of command and its loyalty to the duly constituted government.

They called all major military. commanders in the country.

"Navy chief Adm. Mateo Mayu-,

ga spoke with the Marines. "At Gen. Senga's advice, Lim submitted to the AFP Chief of Staff's custody.

Suspicious actions at PNP Special Forces

"On 23 February, residents near Camp Sto. Domingo, base of the Philippine National Police Special Action Force (SAF) were told to take precautions because some SAF elements were planning to defect.

"PNP Chief Gen. Arturo Lomibao asked SAF commander Gen. Pranco about SAF situation and told him to

disavow any SAF defection. Tranco issued statement. He was later relieved without incident. along with two other SAF officials.

24 FEBRUARY / FRIDAY

By early morning on Friday, 24 February, all military commanders and forces were accounted for and solidly behind the chain of command.

While the skuation was under control, in Gen. Senga's assessment, it was still fluid and could change.

"The AFP leadership meets daily to assess the situation and take necessary action. The military has also embarked

on a campaign to enhance the troops' allegiance to constitutional government, and their under-standing of the national situation.

Advised of the foregoing military and civilian developments, the President and the Cabinet decided on the morning of Friday, 24 February, to issue Proclamation 1017.

GMA makes 2nd trip out of Malacañang

WITH HER SON AND DAUGTHERin-law in tow, President Macapagal-Arroyo vesterday went to hear Sunday Mass at the Ermita Church in Manifa, her second public appearance after the government thwarted a purported coup attempt three

days ago. The President sat in the front pew with her son Dato and his wife Maria Victoria, as several members of the Presidential Security Group, who were scattered

all over the church, looked on. Her trip to the church came a day after she went to a mall at Bonifacio

a summit for entrepreneurs.

On Friday, the President declared a state of national emergency to thwart a supposed coup against the administration.

Ms Arroyo stayed for the entire Mass and drew the attention of the other church-goers.

After receiving Holy Communion, the President-apparently delighted with a little girl-picked ber up and posed for a picture as requested by the child's equally delighted mother.

After the Mass, Ms Arroyo and her party immediately left the Church and returned to Mala-Global City in Taguig City to attend caftang. Christine O. Avendafio

Pinoys in HK protest

HONG KONG-ABOUT 60 FILIPINO migrant workers processed Sunday ourside the Philippine consulate in Hoog Kong, denouncing President Macapagal-Arroyo for declaring a state of national emergency and demanding that she step down.

"Oust, oust GMA," the protesters elled outside the consulate. "Oust the US-Arroyo regime," read a placard.

Critics have questioned whether Ms Arroyo's emergency declaration Friday was justified since no actual coup attempt occurred.

Eman Villamueva, one of Sunday's protest organizers, blasted the decree, calling it "martial law in disguise."

"The Filipino people have had enough of the fascist rule of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's government," Villanueva said. "We've had enough of the poverty, the injustice, the human rights violations under her presidency."

In a reference to the days of former director Perdinand Mercos, the protesters chanted "never again, never again to martial law" outside the consulate and handed over a petition to a consular official.

Philippine Consul General in Hong Kong Alejandrino Vicente was not immediately available for comment.



Japanese call for end to trafficking

human trafficking have called for better cooperation between victims' home countries and Japan, a hotbed for the crime.

"Cooperation among states is essential," Reiko Otsu, a leading Japanese campaigner to help women who escaped forced prostitution,

told a symposium in Tokyo yesterday.
"Receiving countries and the countries of origin need to help each other to rescue victims of human trafficking," she said.

Japan, the world's second largest economy, has long been one of the largest markets for

Japanese police protected 117 women from nine countries who had been forced into sexual work last year, 40 percent of whom were from Indonesia, while many others were from the Philippines and Thailand, panelist Tanyoshi Iguchi from the National Police Agency said.

Tokyo has come under intense criticism for its lack of laws to crack down on sexual slavery and labor abuses even after it signed the UN Convention Against Human Trafficking in 2002.

In a humiliating blow from its closest ally, Japan was castigated in a 2002 report by the United States State Department for its failure to prevent slavery, with countries including Colombia and South Korea, evaluated as better in fighting the crime.

The Japanese government finally moved last year to create a law that made the trafficking of people a specific offense and provided for support to victims.

Warning out on China jobs

THE PHILIPPINE EMBASSY IN BELJING over the weekend issued a warning to Filipino workers, particularly teachers, against falling prey to illegal recruiters offering lucrative employment in China.

In a report to the Department of Foreign Affairs, Charge d'Affaires Corazon Belmonte-Jover said most of the cases of breach of contract and illegal recruitment in China involved fly-by-night recruitment agencies and unauthorized schools that hired Filipino teachers through the Internet or over the phone.

The illegal recruiters were both Filipinos and foreigners, Jover said.

Their victims would end up underpaid, job-

less or imprisoned for illegally staying in China, she said.

in the report, Jover said that while there was a need for English teachers in China, "not all schools are authorized by the Chinese government to hire foreign teachers."

Before taking up a recruiter's job offer, Jover advised teachers to first check their prospective employer's background and to contact other Filipino teachers already working in China.

According to the embassy, a foreigner has to have a working "Z" visa in order to work Nikko Dizon legally in China.

THE DAILY GOSPEL



Monday, February 27, 2006 8th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Mark 10:17-27 Gospel: Just as Jesus was setting out on his journey

again, a man ran up, knelt before him and asked, "Good Master, what must I do to have eternal life?"

Jesus answered, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: Do not kill, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not bear false witness, do not cheat, honor your father and mother." The man replied, 7 have obeyed all these commandments since my childhood,"

Then Jesus looked steadily at him and loved him and he said, "For you, one thing is lacking. Go, sell what you have and give the money to the poor, and you will have riches in heaven. Then come and follow me." On bearing these words, his face fell and he went away sorrowful for he was a man of great wealth.

Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!"

They were more astonished than ever and wondered, "Who, then, can be saved?" Jesus looked steadily at them and said, "For humans it is impossible, but not for God; all things are possible with God."

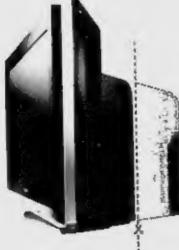
Commentary We must remember that we have been born into God, into mercy and hope and the restarection of Jesus the Christ. We are to rejoice in that, in the face of hardship and suffering, but hold fast and honor God by loving one another. Jesus is asked what constitutes eternal life, to know it now, and we, like the man who asks, know the answers. We are to abey the commandments of old. And once we have struggled to master them, there is one more thing. Sell all we have, give to the poor and come follow Jenus. There is always one more thing but nothing is impossible with our God. We are to belong to God more and more, and each day, give one more thing to the poor and come follow more closely.

We forget so easily so often who we are.

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A

provinces kept the city relatively calm,

raising hopes the worst of the crisis was

areas outside Baghdad but decreed an

"I think the danger of civil war as a re-

sult of this attack has diminished, al-

though I do not believe we are com-

pletely out of danger yer," US Ambas-

sador Zalmay Khalilzad told reporters

Nevertheless, bloodshed continued.

A car bomb exploded in the Shiite holy city of Karbala, killing at least six

people, hospital officials said. Gurunen

broke into a Shiite bome northeast of

Baghdad and massacred 13 male mem-

Bodies of 14 trani police commandos

were found near their three burned vehicles near a Sunni mosque in southwestern Bagh-

dad, police Maj. Palah

al-Mohammedawi said. Two rockers

slammed into Bagh

dad's Shiire shum, Sadi

City, killing three people, including a child and wounding seven

Two Iraqi security officers guarding the fumeral of an Al-Arabiya television corre-

spondent Atwar Bahjat

were killed and foun people were

wounded when a car

bomb exploded as mourners left a ceme-

tery in western Baghy dad. Bahjar was slain

Wednesday along with

two colleagues after

covering the Samarra

broke out as the funer-

al procession was car-

rying her coffin near

the home of Harith al-

Dhari, head of the As-

sociation of Muslim

Scholars, a prominent

Sunni derical group.

One policeman was killed and two people

were wounded in the

shooting, police said. At least 21 other

people died in smallscale shootings and bombings in Baghdad

and western areas of

the city, according to police and bospital re-

Gunmen also shot

at two Sunni mosques

in Baghdad Saturday, police said. And two

rockets damaged a

Shiite shrine late Pri-

day in Tuz Khormato,

240 km north of Bagh-

dad, police and wit-

The crisis has dis-

tracted attention from the approaching dead-

line set by the kidnap-

pers of American jour-

nalist Jill Carroll, ab-

ducted Jan. 7 in Bagh-

dad. Carroll, & free-

lancer for the Christian

Science Monitor, was

last seen on a video-

tape broadcast Feb. 10

by a Kuwaiti television

station. It said the kid-

nappers threatened to

kill her unless the US

mer unspecified de-

"There are no new

developments on her

case so far because we

are busy with a lot of

things right now,"

Deputy Interior Minis-

ter Hussein Kamal said

Saturday. "We know

about the deadline and

we hope that we can

reach her before they

the gravest threats of

the turbulent US pres-

ence in Iraq, American

officials mounted a furious effort to get the

political process back

on track while Iradi

authorities defended

their handling of the

AP

crisis.

Faced with one of

manage to kill her."

mands by Sunday

nesses said.

ports.

shooting

shrine bombing.

Earlier,

police said.

other

tal and its suburbs.

Saturday night.

bers, police said.

60 killed as chaos returns to Iraq

In an unusual round of telephone

diplomacy, President Bush spoke with

seven leaders of Shiite, Sunni Arab

and Kurdish political parties in a bid

to defuse the sectarian crisis un-

leashed by the bombing of the Shiites'

Bush "encouraged them to continue to

work together to thwart the efforts of the

perpetrators of the violence to sow dis-

cord among tracks communities," said

Frederick Jones, a spokesperson for the

White House's National Security Council.

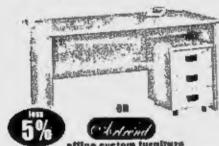
Askariya shrine in Samarra.

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which is not below 90% of the highest bld), the opening of the sealed blds will be

Immediately followed by an open bidding in which all bidders whose bids are not below

80% of the highest bid may participate. The minimum increase in the open bidding

For the complete description of Items Nos. 1-3 including bidding forms, you may look for

Ms. Tina Itasin or Ms. Ariene Velasco et Special Assets Department (SPAD) Land Bank

of the Philippines located at the 30th Floor, LBP Plaza, 1598 M.H. Det Plaz cor. Dr. Quintos

Prospective bidders are enjoined to inspect the above-listed properties before submitting

their bids. The sale of the properties shall be on "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" basis. The winning

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date & time, said proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

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*f. Transfers by companies belonging to a distressed industry sector:

Transferors belonging to an industry sector which BOI has assessed to be in district shall be allowed to transfer their outstanding TCOs to any BOL-registered transference nethroat exputing them to compty with the conditions exposed under Section to, he and it of the proveling MOA, provided that this type of transfer shall

"Hancelority is order to simplify the administrative process in amending the existing MOA, and alnoe BOI and DOF are well represented to the Center's Excess, any assendment to the preventing MOA lecketing asceptions to the guidelines for meritorious consideration shall now be done through a reactation duly approved by the Cantar's Executive Committee, which resolution shall be for implementation without the need for another MOA between BOI and DOF, subject to complemes with the provisions of EO 226 and with the required

BOARD OF INVESTMENTS (Sgd.) ELMER C. HERNANDEZ 1

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE (Sgd.) GABDENCIO A. MENDOZA, JR. Undergosselary

Signed in the presence of:

(Sgd.) ERMESTO Q. HIAMSEN Executive Director **OBS-CENTER**

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BAGHDAD-BOMBS AND GUNFIRE KILLED ABOUT Baghdad and three surrounding

halt violence that has claimed nearly 200 lives since the pest. Authorities lifted the curfew in the

destruction of a Shiite shrine set off a wave of retribu- areas outside Bagindad but decreed an destruction of a Shiite shrine set off a wave of retribu- all-day vehicle ban Sunday for the capi-

Reprisal attacks that followed the

Wednesday blast in Samarra have de-

railed talks on a forming new traqi gov-

erroment and threaten Washington's

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But Bush's personal intervention ap-

peared to ease Sureri fears. Tarig al-

Hashimi, among those who spoke with

Bush, said afterward that a new govern-

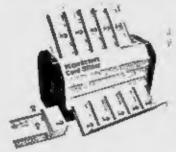
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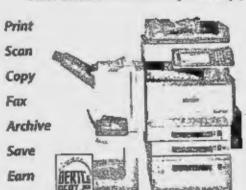
free of US military involvement.

60 people as another daytime curfew Saturday failed to

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THE DECISION OF THE LEP SHALL BE FINAL AND BINDING.

Qaida threatens more strikes on Saudi oil plants

RIYADH-THE AL-QAIDA NET-work vowed defiantly to assault more Saudi oil facilities, according to an Internet statement posted Saturday after a thwarted attack on the desert kingdom's largest oil installation.

We reaffirm our determination to defeat the crusader and tyrannic forces, stop the plunder of the Muslims' riches, free Muslim land and cleanse the Arabian Peninsula of infidels," said the statement by # Oaida in the Arabian Peninsula, as the network's local branch is

We will not stop attacks until (the presence of infidels) has been eliminated," the statement said. Its authenticity could not be con-

The chilling message cast a pall on Riyadh's efforts to reassure markets made jittery by the falled double suicide bomb attack Friday on the world's largest oil-producing center that left two security guards and the two bombers dead.

The al-Quida statement also identified the two "martyrdomseekers" who died in what the group claimed was a successful attack on the Abquiq facility in the oil-

Ibrahim al-Tuwaijri and Mohammed Saleh Mohammed al-Ghaith, both of whom figured on a 36-strong list of wanted militants issued by Saudi authorities last June.

We warn against the spurious allegations of Saudi media that the operation was thwarted and the two cars exploded at the entrance (of the complex)," the statement said, deriding Riyadh's efforts to portray the botched attack as a tribure to the Opec kingpin's security

Saudi Arabia announced on Friday it had foiled an attack against its major oil processing plant, the first known attempt against such an installation in the world's top oil producer since a wave of al-Qaida terror broke out in May 2003.

"Security (forces) and staff of Saudi Aramco (the state oil conglomerate) succeeded in thwarting terrorist attempt against the Abquiq oil processing plants," Oil Minister Ali al-Nuaimi said immediately after the attempted attack.

Al-Qaida's local branch had issued another statement overnight

security men and at least two assailants were killed in the attempted suicide car bomb attack at the gates of the Abgaig complex.

The death of the two security men was confirmed in a statement by the interior ministry Saturday.

The closest al-Qaida's militants had previously got to Saudi oil installations was in May 2004, when

A security official said that two a shooting rampage in a petrochemical complex in the Red Sea industrial port of Yanbu left six Westerners dead.

World oil prices leapt on news of the attempted attack. New York's main contract, light sweet crude for delivery in April, soared \$2.37 to \$62.91 per barrel in closing trading

after spiking as high as \$63.25. At least 90 civilians, 54 security personnel and 125 militants have now died since al-Oaida's wave of terror began in the desert kingdom, triggering a relentless crackdown by security forces on suspected extremists. Hundreds more have been

in December 2004, al-Qaida chief Osama bin Laden called on his followers to target oil installations in both the Gulf and Iraq.

Saudi Arabia currently pumps around 9.5 million barrels of oil per day and has an output capacity of 11 million bpd.

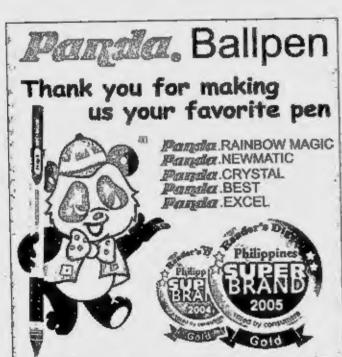
The Eastern Province was the scene of a major attack at the height of the unrest in May 2004, when a shooting and hostage-taking rampage in the city of Al-Khobar left 22 people dead, including four West-

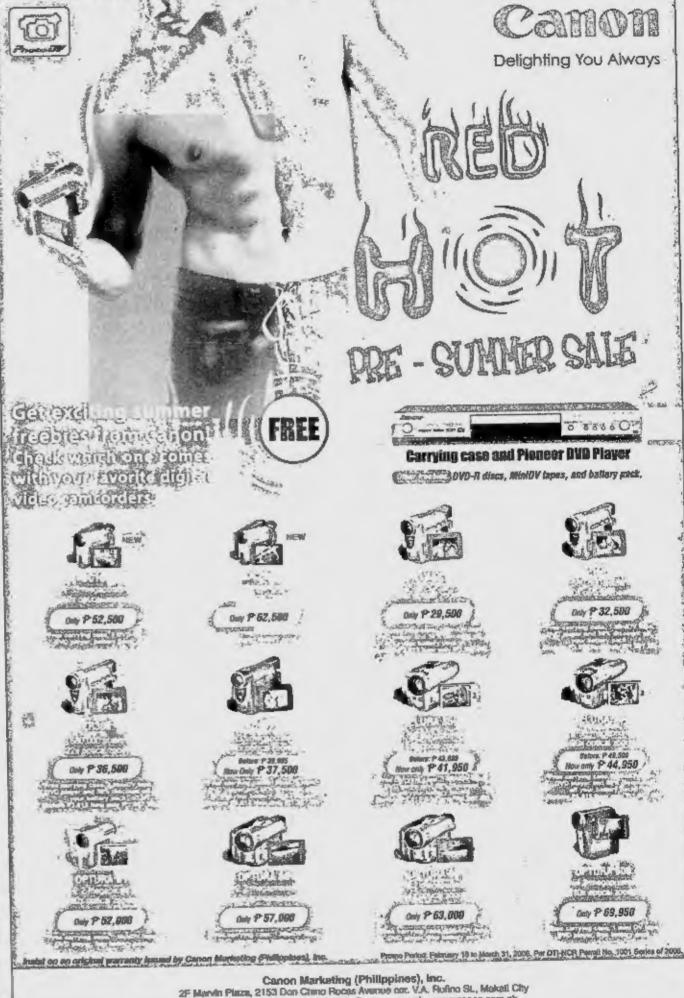


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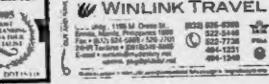
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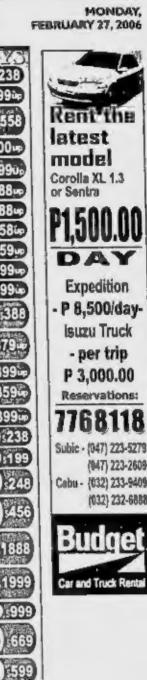
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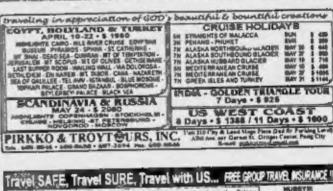
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1,300 prisoners riot in Afghan jail

KABUL-ABOUT 1,300 PRISONERS AT Afghanistan's main jail took control of a prison block Sunday after a not that prompted wardens to open fire and wound at least four inmates, officials said.

The prisoners, about 300 of them alleged members of the ousted Taliban government and their al-Qaida allies, had set fire to mattresses and furniture early Sunday and smoke was still rising from the complex, they said

They had barricaded themselves inside a block at the high-security Pul-e-Charlott prison in Kabul and were refusing to hand over the injured for treatment, Deputy Justice Minister Mohammad Qasim Hashimzau said.

The riot erupted rate Saturday when guards distributed new prison uniforms which some inmates refused to wear, another official said on condition of

anonymitty. "There are 1,350 prisoners—half them are political prisoners and half of them criminal.

Hashimzai said. They had broken through walls separating different sections of the block, including a women's section, and "have joined together and organized a riot," he said.

"According to initial information, four prisoners were wounded when wardens opened fire because they wanted to extend the riot to the whole prison ..." Hashimzai said.

They have control of the wounded prisoners and they are not giving them to us so that we can treat them We have doctors and ambulances ready here."

Authorities believed more than four prisoners could be wounded, Hashimzai said.

"We have created a cordon security around the block. We have control of the prison except for this one block," he said.

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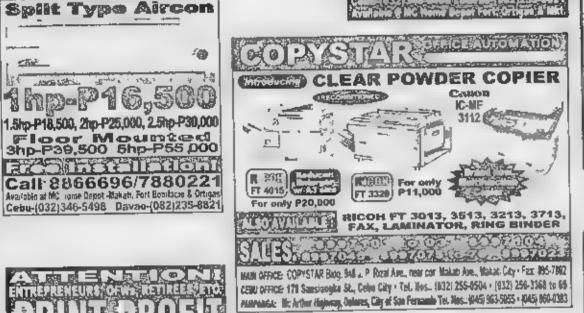
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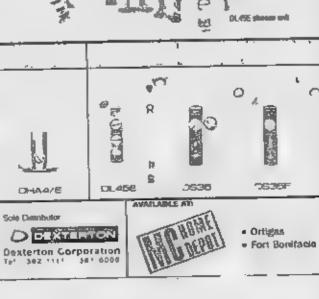
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The WORLD FEBRUARY 27, 2006 **A**12 Loved and loathed, Howard marks 10th year in power

SYDNEY-PRIME MINISTER JOHN HOWARD celebrates his 10th year in power this week, loved for making Australians richer but loaded for making them "meaner."

He is hailed by some as a strong leader who has won greater respect for this country but hated by others as a "deputy sheriff" of the United States who sent Australian troops to an unjust war in

Howard has presided over Australia's longest post-war boom, with unemployment reaching record lower while property and stock markets

But in a country which prides itself on giving everyone "a fair go," a recent poil showed that half the population believes Australians have become meaner under his conservative government.

Howard, 66, a less than charismatic farmer suburban solicitor ridiculed by carcoonists for his small statute, bushy eyelmows and imperfect teeth, bas no such qualms.

CEBU PORT AUTHORITY

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"I don't think we've become meaner at all," he said in one of a series of interviews ahead of his 10th anniversary in power on Thursday.

"There's a tendency for people to always think that there was a golden era in the past of generosity which never quite existed."

Howard said he believed the greatest achievement of his government had been to develop "the strength, in a broad way of the Australian nation.

It is of course economic strength but our sense of our exclidence, our self-respect, our sense of our piace in the world, all of those things are much stronger now."

There was no kinger "this perpetual seminar on who we are or where we came from or where we are going, but we just get on with life and demonstrate in so may different ways what a great place

Critics, however, charge Howard with failing to alleviate the despair of the marginalized aborigines, leaving at least a million Australians in pover-

ty and eroding rivil liberties in the name of fighting terrorism.

"The wroughs by Howard has been profound, a tectonic shift to the populist politics of melividual selfishness on one hand and cosporate gigantism on the other," wrote columnist Mike Cariton in the Sydney Morrang Her-

"War, poverty, civil liberties, common decency. These are merely the vapid obsessions of the latte-sipping 'elites,' who the Howardistas have brilliamity demonized as the new class enemy of all right-thinking Aus-

"यासीडा Howard has west four elections, capitalizing on economic growth and a perceived weakness of leadership within the opposition Labor Party, which he ousted in 1996 after it had held power for 13; AFP .



Tumphores Fee: Ho. 231-894 AM UNVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBALITY AND TO BID

The Cobu Port Authority, North Reclamation Area, Cobu City, through the Bids and Award Committee (BAC), invites all interested consultants in register for eligibility and to bid for the Engagement of Financial Advisor for the Corporatization and Privatization of the Cabu Port Authority.

Interested Consultants must submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) with Application for Eligibility to the Bids and Award Committee through EAC Secretariat on or before March 6, 2006.

The eligibility requirements may be obtained for a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000 00) at the BAC Secretarial starting feerch 7, 2006. The eligibility of registered bidders shall be evaluated using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria based on the eligibility requirements. Eligibility requirements/documents shall be submitted in a seated envelope to the BAC Secretarial at the above-mentioned address. The eligibility envelope shall be opened on March 16, 2006.

The bid documents shall be available at the BAC Secretarial starting March 29, 2006 upon payment of non-refundable fee of Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00). Pre-bid Conference shall be held on April 7, 2006 2:00 P.M. at the Conference Room, Cabu Port Authority

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality/ defect therein, and to accept such bid as may be deemed most prous to the government.

(Sgd.) MARIO G. TAN. BAC Chiamino (Sgd.) MARIANO C.J. MARTINEZ

France seeks to avert panic, losses over bird flu

officials are hoping to avert popular panic and economic losses after the first outbreak of the deadly H5N1 strain of bird flu to strike an EU farm was confirmed in eastern France.

While the European Union was coming to terms with the latest encroachment of the killer virus, back in Asla, where bird flu was first identified. Indonesia announced its 20th victim while China said two of its citizens were in critical condition after being infected with the virus.

Eight EU countries have so far confirmed cases of the highly pathogenic HSN1 strain, but until Saturday all these cases had been found in wild birds. So far the virus has not jumped from birds to humans

The new French outbreak involves sturkeys in a farm in the east of the

France had previously confirmed two cases of H5N1 bird flu, but both were in wild ducks found in the same area.

Experts fear that H5N1, which has killed more than 90 people, mostly in Asia, since 2003, may mutate into a form that can pass between humans, sparking a pandemic that could kill millions.

Human fatalities from the disease have been recorded in Vietnam, Indonesia, TRatiand, China, Cambodia,

Turkey and Iraq.
The World Health OrganiZation has reported contammation by the deadly form of the virus in 13 new countries in February.

President Jacques Chirac publicly played down the development, munching on a piece of clucken that came from the area where the infected turkeys were found as he maugurated an annual agricultural show in Paris.

"There is no interest in provoking a pyschosis, a panic, it's scandalous,"



INDONESIAN vendor showing off a colored chick in Jakarta Feb. 26. Bird flu has killed its 20th human victim in Indonesia, a 27-year-old woman, according to the Indonesia health ministry.

he said, although there was no sign of poultry at the farm show.

European Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson, who also visited the Paris show, said the thi outbreak in Europe was a problem but not a crisis, while not ruling out "real economic problems" posed and the need to support those whose livetihoods were threatened.

Sales of poultry from France, one of the world's top agricultural exporters, are already down 25-30 percent on the same period fast year, with many firms in related industries

announcing staff cuts.

Japan late Friday temporarily banned French poul-try imports because of the bird flu outbreak.

Indonesia's human death toll from bird flu meanwhile hit the 20 mark on Saturday with confirmation that a 27 year-old woman had succumbed to the H5N1 virus.

media reported, bringing the total number of human infections in China to 14, of whom eight have died

Both had come into contact with sick chick-

People who had close contact with them have been put under medical observation by local health authorities, the report said, adding that to far they had shown no abnormal symptoms. în India, animal health officials have ex-

pended a zone for slaughtering chickens in the west of the country after the discovery of a second outbreak of bird flu.

Chickens at two farms in Gujarat state near the Maharashtra state border town of Navapur, the epicenter of the initial outbreak, were confirmed positive with the HSN1 armin on Saturday.

The properties were within a 10-kilometer zone where all farm birds were slaughtered after the initial confirmed outbreak, officials said. AFP





The woman, a housewife who had

direct contact with her neighbor's

chickens, was admitted to a Jakarta

hospital on Monday and died the

Indonesia, the world's fourth most

populous nation, has witnessed more

bird flu deaths than any other country

In China, the health ministry said a

9-year-old girl and a 26-year-old

woman from the east of the country

were seriously ill in hospital after be-

coming infected with H5N1, state

this year, recording nine fatalities.

same day, officials said

Republic of the Philippines SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION Makatl City

TERESITA A. ANDERSON,

Petitioner MARCELINA GENEROSO, GENEVIEVE ANDERSON and

SSC Case No. 5-15903-05

the SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM. Raspondents

<u>SUMMONS</u>

TO . MARCELINA GENEROSO & GENEVIEVE ANDERSON

You are hereby required to file within lifteen (15) days from the date of publication of this Summons with the Office of the Clerk of the Commission, 12th Floor, SSS Makati Building, 6782 Ayela Avenue comer Rufino Street, Makatı City, your enswer to the petition filed by Teresita A. Anderson for entitlement to the benefit accruing from the death of SSS member Dennis Anderson, Sr

You are further required to serve a copy of your answer upon the Petitioner with address located at Block 4 Lot 12, Villa Matilder Baesa, Project 8, Quezon City, and upon the SSS thru the Senior Vice President, Legal and Collection, SSS, Quazon City.

If you fail to answer within the th nearing Commissioner, may upon motion of the petitioner or motu-proprio, deciare you in default and shell forthwith proceed to receive the petitioner's evidence ex-parte and thereafter recommend to the Commission either the granting or denial of the pelition as the evidence may werrant.

SOORDERED

Maketi City, Philippines, February 8, 2006.

SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION



Philippine Economic Zone Authority

Rosan Bouleverd corner San Luis. Petry City Metro Marrie. Telephones (632) 5513436 - 6513454 - Fazzanile (632) 5513436 E-meil: wio@peza gov ph Webells: www. peza gov ph

Security Services Regularment of PEZA

The Philippine Economic Zance Authority (PEZA), through its Corporate Operating Basigal for CY 2005 Intends to apply the sum of PhP 29,652,780 GB per arrans being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payment quater the contract for the Security Services Respektives at PEZA. Buts received to

excess of the ASK shall be extransionally rejected at Biolopening.

The PEZA new travers Bids from alighter Buddes for the Security Services Recolorment description of an eligible Budder is conserved as Section N of the Section Budden Budder is conserved.

description of an eligible Butlet in obstanted in Section II of the isolating occanisms. The Buslet will be conducted from the power competitive brighting procuriers white, and descriptionary principles covers are especially in the inhybrine rang Postant and Registration Pres A gifts As of Registration As Smith (PLA 989), otherwise brown to the "Covernment Procurement Particles Ast." and its revinces to Prignic obtained sole proprietations organizations was at least some great gift by animals or country that their or registration belonging to observe of the Philippines and to observe or organizations of a country the take or registration which grant strains rights or privileges to Efficient organizations of Republic Act 5193 (PLA 5193) and reflect to Commonwealth Act 138 (CLA 135). Only Boy from Butletin who pass the eligibiary create will be opened. Prospective to observation as written static orders within the last live 13 years, with an each observation to the processor in confertion or a writer static creater within the last live 13 years, with an operand. Petablishe boders must have a minimum or the (b) pages superimental in provious sections and should have superiment in undertaking a windle statish project within the tast liver 50 years with in section of privace 50% of the ABC. The protects for the eighbity check in described in Section if of the Bedding Documents into The bodder with the provious Calculated Bed (LCB) used advance in the post-guality beginned and financial equipments of the project. The contract of all these section in the provious contract of an area of execution in the provious contract and financial equipments of the project. The contract of an area of execution in the provious contract of the project in th

ed budders estay obtain further fellowation from the PEZA and evapors the Budding Consessable

at the address given below during office hours, Alandeys to Feldeys A complete set of Bridding Documents may be frequented and prochased by wherested Belders, from 21 Septimery to 63 March 2006. Mandarys to Endays, 6:00 e.m. ps 5:05 p.m. at the address below and upon payment of a stan-religiosable him in the amount of PaP 50,000 to and subsequent of a conflict copy of their G-EPS Confedent of Registration. This multiple of payment will be call below only. The Bridding Occuments shall be received personnily, by the prespective States on him.

authorized representative. The PEZA with hold a Phe-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on the Nation 2006, 2000 jum at the 8th Phor. Googal Hall, PEZA Building Mt. Rejuite Boulthand corner familium 51., Parany Chy Bids and alignality and married world to delivered to the atthems before or familium, 11-00 a.m. of 21 March 2006 ALI Bids must be controlled to by a Bod selevaty in the time of GSLS Surely Bond in the attention of the service of world to the service of the service of the service of the fill the service of the advanced of the Service world to the service of the advanced of the Service world to the service of the Service

comer San Liet St., Pissay City. Bids will be operated to the presument of the district on

to case any of the above dates to checked a special non-norming issuitary, it will exponentically be easet on the next working day

The PEZA estances the right to occasive respect any that to annual the brighting process, and to reject all thick at any large poor to construct amount, without haveley recently only regions to the effective three on facilities. Philippina Economic Zone Authority

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Declaration of freedom

Let us be clear: We neither approve of, nor do we encourage, any attempt by factions of the military, or by the armed services as a whole, to seize power for themselves, in a misguided attempt to solve through sheer force the crisis of legitimacy confronting President Macapagal-Arroyo. They may think they are only cutting the Gordian knot of elitist politics with one swift

stroke of the sword; we know, from **EDITORIAL** all too-bitter experience, that once unsheathed, and despite the best of intentions or the most battle-tested sense of patriotism, it will be difficult to out that sword back in its scabbard.

We should all heed the new cardinal's warnings about military adventurism. Or the pastoral statement of the new president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines: "We reject violence from whichever group that may come, either in pursuance of its purpose or to take advantage of the crisis-situation."

The danger of a coup is a serious threat to the democratic project; but Proclamation 1017, which declared a state of national emergency, is not a mere threat. It is an actual assault on our hard-won, though still-imperfect, democracy.

If more proof were needed, the raid on the opposition The Daily Tribune, the posting of soldiers outside the two grant television networks, the declaration by the chief of the Phil.ppine National Police that the government will take over media institutions that do not follow new "standards"-all these tell us that containment of anti-Arroyo stories is one objective of the state of national emergency.

While we recognize that the State has the right to defend itself, and can call on citizens (journalists included) to pitch in in that defense, we cannot agree with Prociamation 1017's bitthe assumption that the President is the

Our democratic tradition follows the Holmesian principle of pluralism: The body politic is a free market of ideas. What does this mean? It means that a dangerous idea is not banned from the market; instead, it is met with other ideas. In other words, our democratic tradition believes that good ideas out-compete the bad ones. Proclamation 1017 reveals to us, however, that the Arroyo administration no longer shares this article of

Proclamation 1017 is rankly unconstitutional. It violates Section 4 of Article III: "No law shall be passed abridging the freedom of speech, of expression, or of the press." It trashes Section 7 of the same Article III. "The right of the people to information on matters of public concern shall be recognized. Access to official records, and to documents and papers pertaining to official acts, transactions, or decision, as well as to government research data used as basis for policy development, shall be afforded the citizen."

When we reread these resonant phrases today, and remember that Malacañang reporters have been barred from the working press area, or realize that the raid on the Tribune and the attempted raid on Abante are Malacañang's not-so-subtle attempts at intimidating other media organizations, we are overcome by a sense of out-

The truth is: It is Proclamation 1017 itself which has recklessly magnified the threat to the Republic. If restiveness in the ranks of the military continues, it is partly because our soldiers too can sense the fatal discrepancy between means and ends.

We in the media can only yow to continue doing what we have always done: to hold up the mirror to sometimes-unforgiving nature. We will continue to follow the laws of journalism, which have been tested in other, dangerous crises; we will continue to serve the public's right to know, because an informed citizenry is the cornerstone of democracy; we will continue to regulate ourselves, correct ourselves if necessary, and practice the highest standards of professionalism; we will continue to engage in the search for the truth; not least, we will continue to serve the freedoms of speech, expression and the press, m the best way we know how; through their honest exer-

To the President's declaration of war, we can only offer a counter declaration. She can count on us to do our share in defending democracy.



Pinoys no longer afraid of martial rule

WASN'T IT SAD AND IRONIC THAT ON THE very day that we were commemorating the 20th anniversary of Edsa I, that shining moment in our history when we broke the chains of a dictator, another dictator would emerge and put us back in chain, virtually bringing us again into those dark days of martial law? What is happening in our poor country today is proving the saying that "history repeats itself"

What is happening is early a repeat of the early days of martial law. It is as if we are dreaming of the bad old days, only to wake up and find out that the dream is for real, after all

in 1972, Ferdinand Marcos faked an ambush, where the car of then Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile (without Enrile in it) was peppered with bullets. The "incident" was used as an excuse to declare martial law. On the same night, soldiers swooped down on the offices of all the newspapers and closed them; they also rounded scores of the administration critics. Years later, the same Enrile, with the help of People Power, would lead a coup to successfully oust Marcos from Malacañang

It was that shining moment that we were celebrating when Gloria Marapagal-Arruyo did a Marcor and proclaimed a "state of emergency." Bur judging from the draconian measures that she imposed, the proclamation is almost a declaration of martial law. (Proclamation 1017 is only a number different from Proclamation 1081, the instrument with which Marcos declared martial law. And 1017's first "Whereas" is almost a word for-word reproduction from 1081.)

Soon after, soldiers swooped down on the offices of The Daily Tribune and closed it. In other places, selected personalities were arrested. Yesterday, the Philippine National Police warned that other media outlets would be closed, too, if they don't toe the government une Shades of Marcos!

It is said that all living organisms learn from their mistakes and adjust to their environment, from the tiny virus that unutates to protect itself, to the giant trees that learn to adjust the

A GOVERNMENT HAS THE RIGHT TO PRO-

tect itself from a threat. But a government has no right to syvannize the world to protect itself

from that threat. GMA is not doing the first,

the is doing the second. Her response to an ac-

tempt to unseat her by force is to become a dic-

group of military munueers, she has variously:

proclaimed a state of emergency incorporating

marrial-law powers; arrested Randy David and

30 individuals for taking to the streets to cele

brate the 20th anniversary of Edsa, practically

took over the Tribune; arrested Crispin Beltran

and nearly did so Satur Ocampo, and attempted

to intimidate media. Calibrated? This is about as calibrated a response to the provocation as

The strangest things have happened to this

country but none stranger than that the very

day dedicated to the fall of marrial law should

be dedicated to its resurrection 20 years later,

the very day dedicated to reclaiming the free-

doms guaranteed by democracy should be dedi-

cated to losing it to a tyranny guaranteed by tru-

per and generals. Our editorial said k was a be-

The only continuing threat to the Republic is

not an ongoing mutiny, it is an ongoing rule

shrouded in illegitimacy. I was listening to CNN

last Friday and their correspondent was saying

the widespread perception here was that GMA

had rigged the elections with the help of a Com-

elec commissioner. The host asked if emergency

ride was not going to deepen the perception she

could rule only by force. The correspondent said yes, it would. Lagree one thousand percent

It would, and it does. Since last Priday, GMA has

The only solution to rebellions and upris-

ings, real or imagined, is not for GMA to crash

the freedoms of this country so that she may

survive. The only solution to rebellions and up-

risings, real or imagined, is for GMA to step

down so that this country may breathe. Take it

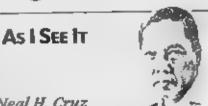
from Cory who defied her order for all radies to

shown she can now rule only by force.

trayal of Edsa. It is, and breathtakingly so

burning a house down to get rid of termites.

Since she discovered a plot against her by a



Neal H. Cruz

size and forms of their leaves to better use sun and rain. GMA is among that group of smart organisms who have learned from the mistakes of others. She has learned from the mistakes of Marcos and Erap.

Marcus' mistake in Edsa I was that he vacilsated and allowed the crowd at Edsa to grow big. By the time his tanks rolled out, it was too late. The tanks couldn't get through the crowds and Marcos wouldn't let them run over or fire their cannons at people and at Camp Crame where the rebels were holed up.

GMA learned from that mistake. That is why she unleashed her police to disperse the rallies at Edsa before they could get any bigger. That is why she cancelled all rally permits. That is why she is denigrating People Power. Although she herself benefited from it, she wants it to go our of fashion before she herself becomes an other of its victims

And as fear is the ally of tyranny, the is now sowing fear with the arrest of selected personalrties. As the media are expected to resist another dark age, they are being terrorized with raids and stern warnings for them "to behave or else." Real, full-blown terrorism is upon as and it is not coming from al-Quida, the NPA or the MILE but from our own government, the AFP and police, the very agencies that are tasked to protect all the people, not the President alone

But the people have searced, too. Having survived 14 years of Marcus' dictatorship, they are no longer afraid of another martial regime. They are no longer afraid of being arrested and imprisoned. Being arrested now for political offenses is a badge of honor indeed, many of the people that Marcos had clamped in jail were lasts elect

ed by the people to the Senate, to the House of Representatives, to local government units. Some of them even became Cabinet members Many of our present leaders now, pro- and anuadministration, were former Marcos detainces.

So being arrested and jailed is no longer something to fear People now feet honored if they are singled out for arrest and feel insulted of they are ignored

Pilipinus love rebels. This is so because of our history of being abused by colonizers and tyrants. All our great heroes were rebels--- from Degohoy to Bonufacio and Rizal to Macario Sakay to Ninoy Aquino-who fought against foreign inveders and home-grown tyrants

During the Spanish and American colonial regimes, the Filipinos kept waging separate pocker revolts. They were beaten back by the far superior colonizers but they kept trying and finally succeeded. During the Japanese Occupation, practically all the young men became guerrillas, and in the NPA and Muslim rebellions. bright young men and women from the best universities have gone to the hills to join the rebeis.

No, arrest and detention don't scare Pilipmos anymore. Neither does the closure of media outlets scare journalists. Like viruses that mutate, media will find ways to provide the people with information, especially now that we have the Internet, the "Xerox" machines and the cell phones. Underground newspapers will come out, in mimeographed or "Xeroxed" copies. Paradoxically, the more you try to suppress them the more people will become curious to read them

The best thing that has happened to the Tribane was the police raid on its offices and facilities. Before, it had a very small circulation; hardly anybody paid it any attention. Now suddenly, he raid, people are curiously talking about it, and it would surely be sold out when it resumes publication, clandestinely or not

fronically, the Arroya administration just made the Tribune, its staunchest critic, a sensational success. GMA's regime has shot itself in the

Dictator

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros



cease on the day given to celebrating the reclamation of freedom and who asked her with customary politeness to make the ultimate secrifice of resigning. Which sounded not unlike asking her husband to make the ultimate sacrifice of living within his means, but that is an-

I myself have been asking for GMA to be ousted, and will continue to do so. But by constitutional means, not by unconstitutional ones: By People Power and not by a coup. If People Power is unconstitutional, then GMA has no right to exist, her right to govern would have been voided from the start. For even stranger than GMA restoring martial law on the day it was dismanded 20 years ago is GMA declaring filegal the very thing that brought her to power-against the one president in this country whose electoral mandate was ironclad. I remember again my arduously defending the legitimacy of Edva Il against my foreign journalist friends who thought it was a mere coup wrought by the elite against a populist leader, I continue to maintain it was genuine People Power for reasons I will not go into here. But if it was debatable then, it is not debatable now. An act of People Power against an arguably illegitimate president is unarguably legitimate.

Proclamation 1017-it is one of God's mysterious ways that that should sound like Mar cos' Proclamation 1081 plunging the country into the darkness of marrial law-is a marrial law decree, not an emergency act, it posits among its "whereas-es" that media have been aiding an insidious conspiracy which has got to stop. The premise is wrong to begin with: it is

not a conspiracy, it is an open and popular demand. Pew people in this country bother to hade or disguise their disgust over the Arroyo administration and their fervent desire to see it go. Even the aborted coup-which the AFP chief of staff himself refuses to call so; he calis it a "threatened withdrawal of support"-was so openly advertised, with a view to convincing the higher-ups in the military chain of command to go along with it. Where in the world will you find a coup like that?

But more than that, that "whereas" is vicious, aimed not at stopping uprisings but dissent, not at stopping power-grabs but protest. not at stopping coups but criticism. Henceforth, all dissent, protest and criticism against GMA become an aid to a conspiracy. That is the justification for the crackdown that has already begun. The takeover of the Tribune is a brazen trampling of press freedom. That and the errest of Behran and the manhunt for Ocampo show the tactics of the nascent dictatorship, which is to begin with the "fringe" groups first and go for the mainstream. Tribune is associated with Erap, and Beltran and Ocampo have been painted red. First, the weak links, then the strong ones. They get away with this, they will go for the rest of media.

This is no time to be cowed, this is a time to fight back. As Bertolt Brecht said, you do not protest when the Nazis come to take your neighbors because they are Jews and communists, they will come to take you one day. I recall as well while writing "Deed Aim," a book on how Marcos declared martial law, something Blas Opte told me sa an interview. Marcos, he said, never really thought of mortan law as tasting as long as it did and becoming as vicious as it did. He declared it to buy time to explore various options. But he was surprised when it met with no resistance. So "tinuloy-tuloy no," he went at it full blast

You do not stop dictatorship now, it will go full blast. They've pretty much stolen everything, must they steal your freedom too?

Protest, Defy. Fight back.

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Declaration of freedom

Let us be clear. We neither approve of, nor do we encourage, any attempt by factions of the military, or by the armed services as a whole, to seize power for themselves, in a misguided attempt to solve through sheer force the crisis of legitimacy confronting President Macapagal-Arroyo. They may think they are only cutting the Gordian knot of elitist politics with one swift

stroke of the sword; we know, from EDITORIAL all-too-bitter experience, that once unsheathed, and despite the best of intentions or the most battle-tested sense of patriotism, it will be difficult

to put that sword back in its scabbard.

We should all heed the new cardinal's warnings about mintary adventurism. Or the pastoral statement of the new president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines: "We reject violence from whichever group that may come, either in pursuance of its purpose or to take advantage of the crisis-situation."

The danger of a coup is a serious threat to the democratic project; but Proclamation 1017, which declared a state of national emergency, is not a mere threat. It is an actual assault on our hard-won, though still imperfect,

If more proof were needed, the raid on the opposition The Daily Tribune, the posting of soldiers outside the two grant television networks, the declaration by the chief of the Philippine National Police that the government will take over media institutions that do not follow new "standards"-all these tell us that containment of anti-Arroyo stories is one objective of the state of national emergency.

While we recognize that the State has the right to defend itself, and can call on citizens (journalists included) to pitch in in that defense, we cannot agree with Proclamation 1017's blithe assumption that the President is the

Our democratic tradition follows the Holmesian principle of pluralism: The body politic is a free market of ideas. What does this mean? It means that a dangerous idea is not banned from the market; instead, it is met with other ideas. In other words, our democratic tradition believes that good ideas out-compete the bad ones. Proclamation 1017 reveals to us, however, that the Arroyo administration no longer shares this article of

faith Proclamation 1017 is rankly unconstitutional. It violates Section 4 of Article III: "No law shall be passed abridging the freedom of speech, of expression, or of the press." It trashes Section 7 of the same Article III: "The right of the people to information on matters of public concern shall be recognized. Access to official records, and to documents and papers pertaining to official acts, transactions, or decision, as well as to government research data used as basis for policy development, shall be afforded the citizen."

When we reread these resonant phrases today, and remember that Malacañang reporters have been barred from the working press area, or realize that the raid on the Tribune and the attempted raid on Abante are Malacañang's not-so-subtle attempts at intimidating other media organizations, we are overcome by a sense of out-

The truth is: It is Prociamation 1017 itself which has recklessly magnified the threat to the Republic. If restiveness in the ranks of the unlitary continues, it is partly because our soldiers too can sense the fatal discrepancy be-

tween means and ends. We in the media can only yow to continue doing what we have always done: to hold up the mirror to somet,mes-unforgiving nature. We will continue to follow the laws of journalism, which have been tested in other, dangerous crises; we will continue to serve the public's right to know, because an informed catizenry is the corneratione of democracy; we will continue to regulate ourselves, correct ourselves if necessary, and practice the highest standards of professionalism, we will continue to engage in the search for the truth; not least, we will continue to serve the freedoms of speech, expression and the press, in the best way we know how: through their honest exer-

To the President's declaration of war, we can only offer a counter-declaration. She can count on us to do our share in defending democracy.

STATE OF CY EMERGENCY Jonabrus eppe

Pinoys no longer afraid of martial rule

WASN'T IT SAD AND IRONIC THAT ON THE very day that we were commemorating the 20th anniversary of Edsa I, that shining moment in our history when we broke the chains of a dictator, another dictator would emerge and put us back in chain, virtually bringing us again into those dark days of martial law? What is happening in our poor country today is proving the saying that "history repeats itself."

What is happening is early a repeat of the early days of martial law. It is as if we are dreaming of the bad old days, only to wake up and find out that the dream is for real, after all.

In 1972, Perdinand Marcos faked an ambush, where the car of then Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile (without Enrile in it) was peppered with bullets. The "incident" was used as an excuse to declare marrial law. On the same right, soldiers swooped down on the offices of all the newspapers and closed them, they also rounded scores of the administration. critics. Years later, the same Enrile, with the help of People Power, would lead a coup to successfully oust Marens from Malacañang

It was that shiping moment that we were celebrating when Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo did a Marcus and proclaimed a "state of emergency." But judging from the dracoman measures that she imposed, the proclamation is almost a declaration of martial law (Proclama tion 1017 is only a number different from Proclamation 1081, the instrument with which Marcos declared marcial law. And 1017's first "Whereas" is almost a word-for-word reproduction from 108L)

Soon after, soldiers swooped down on the offices of The Daily Tribune and closed it. In other places, selected personalities were arrested. Vesterday, the Philippine National Police warned that other media outlets would be closed, too, if they don't toe the government

line. Shades of Marcus! It is said that all living organisms learn from their mutakes and adjust to their environment, from the tiny virus that soutates to protect itself, to the giant trees that learn to adjust the

A GOVERNMENT HAS THE RIGHT TO PRO-

tect itself from a threat. But a government has

no right to tyrannize the world to protect uself

from that threat. GMA is not doing the first,

the is doing the second. Her response to an at

tempt to unseat her by force is to become a dic-

group of military municeers, she has variously

proclaimed a state of emergency incorporating

martial-law powers; arrested Randy David and

30 individuals for talong to the screets to cele-

brate the 20th anniversary of Edsa; practically

took over the Tribune; arrested Crispin Bekran

and nearly did so Satur Ocampo, and actempted

to intimidate media. Calibrated? This is about

as calibrated a response to the provocation as

country but mone stranger than that the very

day dedicated to the fall of marrial law should

be dedicated to its resurrection 20 years later;

the very day dedicated to reclaiming the free

doms guaranteed by democracy should be dedi-

cated to losing it to a tyranny guaranteed by ou-

pos and generals. Our editorial said it was a be-

not an ongoing mutiny, it is an ongoing rule

shrouded in illegitunacy. I was listening to CNN

last Friday and their correspondent was saying

the widespread perception here was that GMA

had rigged the elections with the help of a Com-

elec commissioner. The host asked if emergency

rule was not going to deepen the perception she

could rule only by force. The correspondent

said yes, it would. I agree one thousand percent.

It would, and it does. Since last Friday, GMA bas

The only solution to rebellious and upris-

ings, real or imagined, is not for GMA to crush

the freedoms of this country so that she may

survive. The only solution to rebellions and up-

risings, real or imagined, is for GMA to step

down so that this country may breathe. Take it

from Cory who delied her order for all railies to

shown she can now rule only by force.

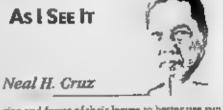
The only continuing threat to the Republic is

trayal of Edsa. It is, and breathtakingly so.

The strangest things have happened to this

burning a house down to ger rid of termires

Since she discovered a plot against her by a



size and forms of their leaves to better use sun and rain. GMA is among that group of smart organisms who have learned from the mistakes of others. She has learned from the mistakes of Marcos and Brap

Marcos' mistake in Edsa I was that he vacillated and allowed the crowd at Edsa to grow big. By the time his tanks rolled out, it was too late. The tanks couldn't get through the crowds and Marcos wouldn't let them run over or fire their cannons at people and at Camp Crame where the rebels were hoted up

GMA learned from that mistake. That is why she unleashed her police to disperse the railies ar Edsa before they could get any bigger. That is why she cancelled all rally permits. That is why she is demgrating People Power. Although she herself benefited from it, she wants it to go out of fashion before she herself becomes another of its victims.

And as fear is the ally of tyranny, she is now sowing fear with the arrest of selected personalrues. As the media are expected to resist another dark age, they are being terrorized with raids and stern warnings for them "to behave or else " Real, full-blown terrorism is upon as and it is not coming from al-Qaida, the NPA or the MILE but from our own government, the AFP and police, the very agencies that are tasked to protect all the people, not the President alone.

But the people have learned, too. Having survived 14 years of Marcos' dicraturship, they are no longer afraid of another marrial regime. They are no longer afraid of being arrested and unpris oned. Being arrested now for political offenses is a badge of bonor, indeed, many of the people that Marcus had clamped in jail were later elect-

ed by the people to the Senate, to the House of Representatives, to local government units Some of them even became Cabinet members. Many of our present leaders now, pro- and antiadministration, were former Marcos detainees.

So being arrested and jailed is no longer something to fear. People now feel honored if they are singled out for arrest and feel insulted if they are ignored

Filipinos love rebels. This is so because of our history of being abused by colonizers and tyrants. All our great heroes were rebels—from Dagohoy to Bonifacio and Rizal to Macario Sakay to Ninoy Acquino-who fought against foreign invaders and home-grown tyrants.

During the Spanish and American colonial regimes, the Pilipinos kept waging separate pocket revolts. They were beaten back by the far superior colonizers but they kept trying and finally succeeded. During the Japanese Occupation, practically all the young men became guer rillas, and in the NPA and Muslim rebellions, bright young men and women from the best unlversities have gone to the hills to join the rebeis.

No, arrest and detention don't scare Filipmos anymore. Neither does the closure of media outlets scare journalists. Like viruses that mutate, media will find ways to provide the people with information, especially now that we have the internet, the "Xerox" machines and the cell phones. Underground newspapers will come out, in mimeographed or "Xeroxed" copies. Paradoxically, the more you try to suppress them the more people will become curious to read them.

The best thing that has happened to the Tri-bune was the police raid on its offices and facilities. Before, it had a very small circulation, hardly anybody paid it any attention. Now suddenly, because of the raid, people are curiously talking about it, and it would surely be sold ou resumes publication, clandestinely or not

tronically, the Arroyo administration just made the Tribune, its staunchest critic, a sensational success. GMA's regime has shot itself in the

Dictator

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros



cease on the day given to relebrating the recismation of freedom and who asked her with customary politeness to make the ultimate sacrifice of resigning. Which sounded not unlike asking her husband to make the ultimate sacrifice of living within his means, but that is an-

I myself have been asking for GMA to be ousted, and will continue to do so. But by constitutional means, not by unconstitutional ones: By People Power and not by a coup. If People Power is unconstitutional, then GMA has no right to exist, her right to govern would have been voided from the start. For even stranger than GMA restoring martial law on the day it was dumantled 20 years ago is GMA declaring illegal the very thing that brought her to power-against the one president in this country whose electoral mandate was tronclad. I remember again my archously defending the legatimacy of Edsa Il against my foreign journalist friends who thought it was a mere coup wrought by the elite against a populist leader. I continue to maintain it was genuine People Power for reasons I will not go into here. But if it was debatable then, it is not debatable now. As act of People Power against an arguably illegiumane president is unarguably legitimate

Proclamation 1017-it is one of God's mysterious ways that that should sound like Marcos' Proclamation 1081 plunging the country into the darkness of martial law-is a martial law decree, not an emergency acr. It posits among its "whereas-es" that media have been aiding an insidious conspiracy which has got to stop. The premise is wrong to begin with: it is

not a conspiracy, it is an open and popular demand. Few people in this country bother to hide or disguise their disgust over the Arroyo administration and their fervent desire to see it go. Even the aborted coup—which the APP chief of staff himself refuses to call, so; he calls it a "threatened withdrawal of support"-was so openly advertised, with a view to convincing the higher-ups in the military chain of command to go along with it. Where in the world will you find a coup like that?

But more than that, that "whereas" is vicious, aumed not at stopping uprisings but dissent, not at stopping power-grabs but protest, not at stopping coups but criticism. Henceforth, all dissent, protest and criticism against GMA become an aid to a conspuracy. That is the Justification for the crackdown that has already begun. The takeover of the Tribune is a brazen trampling of press freedom. That and the arrest of Beltran and the manhunt for Ocempo show the tactics of the nascent dictatorship, which is to begin with the "fringe" groups first and go for the mainstream. Tri-bune is associated with Erap, and Beltran and Ocampo have been painted red. Pirst, the weak links, then the strong ones. They get away with this, they will go for the rest of media

This is no time to be cowed, this is a time to fight back. As Bertolt Brecht said, you do not protest when the Nazis come to take your neighbors because they are Jews and commurusts, they will come to take you one day. I recall as well while writing "Dead Aim," a book on how Marcos declared martial law, something Blus Ople told me in an Interview. Marcos, he said, never really thought of martial law as tasting as long as it did and becoming in vicious as it did. He declared it to buy time to explore various options. But he was surprised when it met with no resistance. So "rinuloy-tuloy no," he went at it full blast.

You do not stop dictatorship now, it will go (ui) blast They've pretty much stolen everything, must they steal your freedom too?
Protest, Defy, Fight back.

was a some of distribute

OPINION

Three emergency situations

IN 2002 NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER ROILO Golez set alarm bells ringing when he came out of a Malacahang conference, announcing that President Macapagal-Arroyo was ready to declare a state of emergency in General Santos. The announcement conjured up visions of arbitrary arrests and moefinite detention. Then, as now, we had not yet recovered from the martial law traums. Hence the alarm bells had to be doused immediately. Golez himself clarified that a state of emergency is a "generic term" which enables the government to choose from a menu of options.

Last Friday, when Malacaftang first hinted at a possible declaration of a national state of emergency, alarm bells erupted. It again conjured up visions of arbitrary arrests and indefinite detention. And a glib Malacañang spokesperson did not help to assuage fears. Neither did the excessive zeal of some mimons of the law. The excesgive seal only continues to threaten public safety.

What is a state of emergency all about and what additional powers, if any, does it give the ex-

There are in the Constitution three situations in which government is called upon to deal with emergency; but in none of the texts is emergency defined in fact, in the most severe of these situations, dealt with by Article VII, Section 18, the word emergency is not even mentioned. It is nimply described.

Article VII, Section 18 speaks of "lawiess violence, invasion or rebellion" which challenge "public safety." These are situations which threaten law and order and national security. They are situations which call for immediate action. Clearly they are emergency situations. And it is the President who is authorized to make the initial assessment whether these situations exist. Moreover, having verified their existence, she is authorized by the Constitution to deal with them through a platter of graduated powers

The most important is the power to impose martial law which broadens the police power of the President Less in severity is the power to sus-

Using her commander in chief powers under Art VII, Sec. 18 of the Constitution, she called on the

Armed Forces of the Philippines to "prevent or

suppress all forms of lawless violence as well (sic)

any act of insurrection or rebellion and to enforce

obedience to all the laws and in all decrees, or-

ders and regulations promulgated by [her] per-

Pursuant to the proclamation, all scheduled rai-

lies were cancelled, protesters (including UP Prof. Randy David) were apprehended and violently dispersed, the National Telecommunications Commission broached the possibility of revocation of

franchise or takeover of media companies that en-gage in "irresponsible" reporting, such as inter-

viewing dusidents; a 6 p.m. currew was imposed

on the Maiacañang press corps; and one major newspaper was raided; others were surveilled

between the language of 1017 and the manner by

which it is operationalized. Indeed, while 1017

munics the language of the Constitution, the acts

performed under its authority are totally at odds

with the guarantees of freedom embodied in our

fundamental law. The language is betrayed by the deeds that give it flesh. Those who believe that

1017 consists of mere "notice" or that it is "point-less" to challenge it, dangerously overlook the

fact that all these actions rely, for their legitimacy,

First. The President has no constitutional au-

The Bill of Rights denies the government the

power to abridge the right of peaceful assembly, Lest the President forget, this is the same princi-

ple the Supreme Court relied upon in Estrada v.

Macapagal-Arroyo, in recognizing the legitimacy

on the validity of the proclamation

of her assumption to power.

What we have here is the screaming disparity

sonally or upon [her] direction.

Sounding BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.



pend the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus which authorizes the executive to limit physical liberty. The mildest is the power to call on the Armed Porces to come to the aid of the police in the prevention or suppression of lawless violence or rebellion. It is this last which President Arroyo used when she usued Proclamation 1017. And to all appearances, her minious are reading it as a declaration of war.

Does calling on the Armed Forces give the President additional executive powers? In substance, no; but it does give her more vigor in the enforcement of law and order which is her daily duty anyway, In the exercise of her law enforcement power, she can make use of all the legal instruments available for law enforcement and within the limits prescribed by the Constitution. Calling on the Armed Porces does not authorize her to cross constitutional demarcation lines. But the danger of abuse is significantly enhanced. Now the from fast it more and more showing behind the mask

Another provision on emergency is Article VI, Section 23(2) which says: "In times of war or other national emergency, the Congress may, by law, authorize the President, for a limited period and subject to such restrictions as it may prescribe, to exercise powers necessary and proper to carry out

a declared national policy."

Here, war is certainly considered a national emergency situation but it is not the only emer gency situation envisioned. The provision also covers emergency situations mentioned by Article VII. Section 18 as well as sinuations created by epidemics, typhoons, earthquakes or other natural calamities. But Congress must first agree that

a national emergency exists, and the extent and the duration of the powers conferred on the President are determined by Congress

The third emergency struction is found in Artide XII, Section 17 which says: "In times of national emergency, when the public interest so requires, the State may, during the emergency and under reasonable terms prescribed by it, temporarily take over or direct the operation of any privately owned public utility or business affected with public interest."

In trying to understand this provision, which among other things leaves "national emergency" undefined, it is important to recall its provenance. It was born during the marrial law regume. You don't find a similar provision in the 1935 Constitution. Moreover, the only time it was used was during marrial lave. In fact, this provision got into the 1973 Constitution, inspired by Marcus' Letter of Instruction (LOI) No. 2, dated 22 September 1972. This LOI instructed the Secretary of National Defemse to take over "the management, control and operation of the Manila Electric Company, the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company, the National Waterworks and Sewerage Authority, the Philippine National Railways, the Philippine Air Lines, Air Manila (and) Filipinas Orient Airways for the successful prosecution by the Government of its effort to contain, solve and end the present national emergency" it was done in the exercise of martial law powers and it was among the execurive acts which the Constitutional Convention wanted ratified through Section 3(2), Article XVII of the 1973 Constitution

In my view, therefore, Article XII, Section 17 embodies a martial law power of the President. R is noteworthy, however, that in referring to Article XII, Section 17, Ms Arroyo, in 1017, simply used it as a springboard for declaring a national state of emergency; she did not attempt to exercise the power embodied in the provision. In fact, she omitted citing the power that the provision embodies. But it is a veiled threat which PNP chief Arturo Lomibao has unveiled

The demise of free speech

ON THE DAY FILIPINOS WERE TO COMMEMOrate the rebirth of democracy, President Macapa-COMMENTARY gal-Arroyo, apparently the target of "a concerted and systematic conspiracy," issued Proclamation 1017 declaring a "State of National Emergency."

The streets constitute a public forum and a mar-ketplace of ideas. The limited role of government as to ensure public access to this forum, through reasonable "time, piace, and manner" regulations

Third. The threat of takeover of some media perceived as providing information mirrical to a vague notion of national interest is both a system of prior restraint and subsequent punishment. It compels the media to engage in a kind of self-censorship that has nothing to do with the search for truth and ev-

The threats not only make media paranoid

On Sept. 21, 1972, President Marcos assued

Proclamation 1081. The first paragraph read NOW, THEREFORE, I, FERDINAND E. MAR. COS, President of the Philippines by virtue of the power vested upon me by Article VII, Sec. 10, Paragraph (2) of this Constitution, do hereby place the entire Philippines as defined in Article 1, Sec. 1 of the Constitution under martial law and, in my cuparity as their Commander-In-Chief, do hereby command the Armed Forces of the Philippines, to maintain law and order throughout the Philip-pines, prevent or suppress all forms of lawless via lence as well as any act of insurrection or rebellion and to enforce obedience to all the laws and decrees, orders and regulations promulgated by me personally or upon my direction

The italicized portion of the above quote is contained, verbatim, in Ms Arroyo's proclamation minus the declaration of martial law and the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus. Any first-year law student knows that GMA will not openly declare martial law or suspend the privilege of the writ as this will oblige her to report to Congress and risk a rebuke from the Supreme Court. And yet, despite an absence of the words, the military shadows civilian movements and warrantless arrests have been made

Karl Liewelyn wrote, "the working Constitution is amended whenever the basic ways of gov-ernment are changed." What he meant is that the democracy we signed up for may be altered, through interpretation, by shose who hold public power Thus, we should strutinize not only what the text of the Constitution provides, but what the President says it means; we should rely not simply on what the President says, but on what she acrually does. If we fail to heed this advice, we might find ourselves holding the same Constirution, but with an entirely different meaning

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Florin T. Hilbay

Prohibition is no proxy for regulation

The core value of free speech is the protection of political dissent. The President cannot monopolize speech by suppressing peaceful expression without violating the Constitution

Second. The arrest of David and others highlight the selective implementation of 1017 Televised accounts show police reactions to the "no-rally policy," ranging from maximum tolerance to downzight intolerance. Thus, the scholar was surprisoned while the religious leader was let loose, the activists were arrested while senators and former President Cory Aquino were guarded at a distance.

This power to arrest people on the streets rests on such vague standards that compliance be-comes impossible and its enforcement arbitrary. This discretionary space has a maximum chilling effect on people's civil liberties

erything to do with everding the censor's wrath.

about striking the "proper balance" between responsible and reckless journalism; it also pushes media to engage in viewpoint discrimination news overbalanced in favor of GMA is always OK, but news critical of her is now always

A lapdog republic

her lawyers copied the language from Marcos,

and the President, who presimably closely reads

everything she signs, found nothing offensive

with the presumption she can issue decrees, even

me about one word in a document, bear in mind

that for writers, lawyers and readers—that is, for

everyone who is literate—words are everything.

The President's personal lawyer, Romulo

Mecalinizal, has been parroting a phrase to defend

the President's proclamation (regardless of the

origin of part of its contents): Presumption of

regularity." This is, indeed, something that ac-

companies all usuances coming from govern-

ment authorities. It is also the weakest of thetori-

When the government uses a warrant issued by

the dictatorship to arrest an elected member of

the House, 21 years after the warrant was issued;

when a professor and students, who dare to exer-

cise their democratic rights, and insist on doing it

peacefully such that they take the trouble to dia-

logue with the police, are assaulted, rounded up,

detained and questimed-only to be released

without charges; when a newspaper is raided and

its issue for the day prevented from rolling off the

press; and then the government appoints military

minders to watch over it while the presidential

chief of staff claims, without batting an eyelash,

that this does not constitute editorial interfer-

ence; when the justice secretary and the head of

the national police make pointed remarks that

cal appeals—an appeal to authority.

Be that as it may, here's an additional point.

If you, the reader, are inclined to quibble with

in a democratic setting

THERE IS THIS POINT OF YIEW THAT A PRESIdential proclamation serves to publicize the state of mind of the chief executive. President Macapagal-Arroyo's Proclamation 1017 suggests a Marcosian state of mind. Lawyers have pointed out that the closing paragraph of the proclamation was lifted virtually verbatim from one of the most notorious proclamations in presidential and Philippine history: Proclamation 1081 of Sept 21, 1972. Now, if there is something journalists have in common with lawyers, it's an interest in precision when it comes to language: words, phrases, even punctuation, are not used carelessly (if one takes any pride at all in one's work); and the use of sources reveals, clearly and beyond a shadow of a doubt, the political color of a writer. If you are a Markist, you quote Mark, Engels, possibly Lenin and Mao; if you are a democrat, you quote Jefferson, Adams, Burke and Rousseau; if you are for non-violence, you quote Gandhi and the Dalai Lama; if you are a fascist, you look to Muscolini, Hitler and Marcos.

No democratically inclined president, and no lawyer working for a president insistent about maintaining democracy by the ways of democracy (to adapt a phrase from Cory Aquino) would even contemplate using the word "decree" in an executive usuance with democratic and republican intentions. And yet this is what Ma Arroyo

Proclaimed she: "[I]n my capacity as their Commander in Chief, do hereby command the Armed Porces of the Philippines, to maintain law and order throughout the Philippines, prevent or suppress all forms of lawless violence as well [44] any act of insurrection or rebellion and to enforce obedience to all the laws and to all decrees, orders and regulations promulgated by me personally or upon my direction." Which might be fine and dandy except no president since Marcos has claimed the right to Issue decrees; not even Cory Aquino, during the period of absolute power she enjoyed until the ratification of the present Constitution, was bold, careless, or crass enough to

they can arbitrarily decide which media can continue to function (implying all media operates on THE LONG VIEW their sufferance); when it is announced that a widow wanting to lay a wreath at the foot of the monument of her husband, and those who wish to recall their efforts to overthrow a dictatorship, all face the possibility of arrest or at least "disper-Manuel L. Quezon III sal"; there can be no presumption of regularity. There can only be a presumption of irregularity. use that word. And yet, Ms Arroyo does: because

Pear, selectively applied, is the dusk asmouncing the more promiscious enforcement of terror in the dark night that's falling. Intimidation is required if selective official amnesia is to prevail

Consider that Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim is said to have attempted to convince the AFP chief of staff to join him in withdrawing support from the President. The armed forces has said, in no uncertain terms, that in its determination of the facts, General Lim wanted to join ralisers and make his posttion known. As far as the thronology goes, this means a mutiny was contemplated by disgruntled military elements, and not a coup d'etat Withdrawal of support was what the President and her husband actively courted the leadership of the armed forces to undertake Edsa B; and while it is said that history is written by the victors, it must also be seen that she herself once encouraged what she now condemns

But then, we are dealing with a government whose chief of police proudly proclaimed last Fri-day: "We have liberated Edsa." From whom, you might ask? Why, from the people. It is a proud boast that Pendinand Marcos once so badly want-

The Palace proclaimed a strange kind of victory: this kind that requires a continuing state of siege. It trumpeted the triumph of order and democracy—at the expense of liberty, it has substituted CPR, EO 464 and Proclamation 1017, for liberty, equality and frateroity. We are left with the bowwow-work, the yip-yip, of a lapdog republic, in which Palace pets are all vying to pew and sniff at the Palace food and water howk and snarling at anyone questioning their position in the pack.

Go, figure

tion Madrasah Pro-

IF THE NATIONAL BUDGET GETS TO BE REENACTED IN 2006, the Department of Education stands to lose PS.6 biltion in new funds urgently needed to improve the public school system. That's the economics of a political decision, plain and simple

Broken down, the DepEd stands to lose

 10 000 new teacher, education supervisor, and nonteaching items (worth P1.0 billion)

 School feeding program funds for two million Grades 1-3 pupils (P1.6 billion)

COMMENTARY Basic Educa-

gram funds for Pil-Juan Miguel Luz ipino-Muslim stu-

dents (P100 million) Additional funds for the maintenance and operation of elementary and secondary schools nationwide (P500 mil-

· Additional funds for the GASTPE "voucher" program which assists private schools to take in high school students from overcrowded public schools (additional 50,000 slots worth P127 million)

 Additional funds for the training of teachers in English, Science and Math (P500 million)

 1,000 pre-schools in fourth to sixth class municipalities without day-care centers (P250 million)

Additional textbooks for English (P1 billion)

 Additional P150 million for the computerization of public high schools

 P120 million for the renovation of 60 library hubs and 12 regional educational learning centers for teacher training

 Schools First Inmative Fund which will enable schools and principals to propose unovative school-based projects on a competitive basis (PS0,000 grants for up to \$,000 public schools nationwide, or P250 million)

All of the above reflect the urgent priorities of our public school system. All of them are consistent with the "Schools First" reform agenda the DepEd laid out in rate 2002 under Secretary Edilberto de Jesus and continued under Secretary Florencio Abad and now Acting Secretary Fe Hidalgo-an agenda representing a continuing DepEd policy to improve our public education system so that it will produce better results and higher individual and collective achievement lev-

Considering the continued poor performance of our public school system and its shortages vis-à-vis the huge growth in enrollment, a reenacted budget would be criminal. Especially when we continue to declare that education is and must continue to be our No. 1 priority.

In February 2005, the DepEd was given a budget celling (for 2006) that reflects zero percent growth or exactly the same level as the 2005 budget (P112 billion), notwithstanding the fact that enrollment grows by close to 3 percent per year. In more specific terms, this means the DepEd is expected to service 500,000 pupils and students more (on top of the 2.5 million six and 7-year-olds who enter Grade 1) with the same budget as the previous year's. This is like providing for a growing family with the same household budget already affected by inflation. That's simple

To correct this oversight, in March 2005, we at the DepEd made a 10-year budget simulation (up to 2015) and presented this to the Neda hoard technical working group to make the case for a consistent increase in the department's budget. We projected enrollments all the way to 2015 and what would be needed in terms of classrooms, textbooks, teachers, computers, equipment, and so on

in the Neda presentation, we also suggested that this administration and the next one (2010-2016) should be prepared to increase the DepEd budget by 8 percent every year for the next five years, and at least 6 percent thereafter if we are to catch up with shortages, cope with our fast population growth, and keep more children from dropping out of school. We showed that if we worked to keep 10 percent more children in school at the end of elementary and secondary levels (i.e., prevent dropouts), this could result in a million more students above and beyond the normal population growth rare

That was how we presented the magnitude of the public education problem

As a result of the lobbying at Neda, 25.5 billion was added o the proposed 2006 DepEd budget (an addition of 6 percent based on the 2005 budget)

A reenacted budget will throw all of this away, leaving us to operate under 2005's P112-billion budget. More kids in school, same budget. As they say, "Go, figure."

in the past five years, four annual budgets were approved lace (and not released till April or June of the fiscal year), and one was re-enacted (2004). If a policy instrument reflecting the spending promities of the executive branch is discarded so easily and re-enacted, then one has to wonder what the real priorities of government are and two other things: One, who is in control of policy here? Two, how commatted as the administration to its so-called priorities, includage education?

A delay in the approval of the budget hurts because it places unnecessary administrative limits in the first quarter of the new year for all other agencies, the first quarter (Jannary-March) is the start of a spending year and the fiscal managers try to keep government spending down during this quarter. But for the DepEd, it is the end (or the last quarter) of its spending year, which is reckoned with the school year. It is the time that DepRd needs the money in order to finish strongly by making sure children are meeting their

Because of the delayed budget approval, the DepEd's MOE (maintenance and operating expenses) is curtailed and limited to 75 percent of the actual allocation. (Salaries and benefits are always paid in full.) Worse, because the budget approval has been delayed (or reenacted) every year these past five years (that's every year of the Arroyo administration, in the first year understandably so because of the Estrade impeachment case), unspent first-quarter allouments are inevitably lost because the budget department does not release what can no longer be rechnically spent

Delayed budgets also mean that capital outlay, including critical classroom construction that should be done during the dry months, cannot be started until the last half of the year when it is already the rainy season. It is not seasible or efficient to build during the rainy or typhoon sea-

The national budget should be enacted into law by the end of every year so that government service can proceed unimpeded and with quality outcomes. Instead, we are forced into a waiting game by the politics of the budget and all of us—the entire country—are the worse for it.

Juan Miguel Lux is the Department of Education's undersetratary for finance and administration (on-leave).

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PINION

Time to restore democracy

through the air. I was with my grandmother, glued to the mackand-white television screen, ilsgening to Juan Ponce Entile's appeal for support from the people

All of as in our family were Marcos supporters, and I tlunk most Filipinos at that time were, because of fear. But when we saw Imeida Marcos cut off from the TV broadcast it was then that the true feelings of my family and. I think, of most Filipinos surfaced We hated the dictator but we did not have the outlet to vent it. At that young tender age I said to myself hat the second time this happens, I will be there to celebrate with the people Four years of studies at the University of the Philippines, five years of work as a broadcast journalist, and several years as an executive did not dimanish this desire.

However, my desire for true and meaningfus change crystal-

liberation of the people from oppression and poverty. As a journalist my eyes were opened to the rearities of poverty. As a police bear reporter, I saw corruption in the lowest rungs of society. As an executive, I saw how corruption has bred aseif into the system. Corruption has become endernic in our national psyche and has become our way of life. Our people need another engittenment to correct this flaw.

This made me join Edsa ll Despite having friends who were serving the Estrada administration, I fought for its downfall, beheving that the former economic professor would be better than the former actor. A year rater. I was regretting having supported the professor. She's better than Erap all right-better at manipulation, better at lying, even better at corruption.

As early as 2002, I and my

I WAS NOT THERE WHEN THE lized Specifically, some kind of friends have been calling for her cry for freedom at Edsa wasted change that would lead to the true ouster. When we should be content with having money and en-joying good, comfortable lives, we went to the streets, determined to make the people understand that the professor will make life more miserable, harder for the Filipmo.

Four years later, events have proven as correct. Now, she's hellbent on dinging to power, even if the Pasig River overflows and sweeps the Palace away. She's exercising every bit of her power to stay on. She is ready to spend millions, even billions, of the people's money to bribe decision makers.

She must be ousted before she wrecks more havor in our country. The last thing our country needs is a second dictator.

The world is going the way of open societies and we are going in the opposite direction. It's time to restore democracy. It's time for change Agam.

-REVORIVERA, rem_rivera@yahon.com

Scattered worldwide, some 'people' still activists

WHERE'S THE "PEOPLE" IN People Power? INQUEER CO umhist Conrado de Quiros asked in his Feb 23 coumn "By ail means ser's tak about People Power today. But let's remember too the people." The can struck a chord

Political detainees are now

scattered all over the world, having gone separate ways long ago. But one thing sure we'l, never forget our being Filipinos who fought for democracy.

I was one of the political detainees during the Marcos regime and I'm now very active in Gawad Kannga, as a votunteer I believe a GK volunteer is also an activist. An activist because we are doing active, postrive work for the betterment of our ailing nation.

I do appreciate De Quiros' senti-

-GLORIA LILLY, oya23@earthlink.uet

Poorer and hungrier 20 years after Edsa I

THIS IS A STRONG, RINGING President Macapagal-Arroyo held accountable for the sad state one-liner "Twenty years after Edsa, the Fi.ip no is deeper in debt, poorer and hungrier."

It is unfair to blame only presidents, and they should all be

poverty. Since 1986, we have had four

for the country's debts and of affairs the Philippines is now -NATALIE PEREZ,

pinkshadesnth@yaboo.com

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Money can't solve poverty

ACCORDING TO NEWS REPORTS, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered the release of government savings, amounting to P35 billion, to combat poverty.

I don't think this re-allocation will permanently solve poverty or erase hunger. No amount of money can buy a permanent solution to the problem of poverty. We have the technology to solve hunger, but not the social and government institutions. This kind of knowledge is not something that can be researched but is a value learned and committed to heart by the

We can very well use the P3S billion to address more fundamental concerns—like the migration of people to urban centers (where they become squatters) and floods (we can start dredging and clearing all city esteros). We should make sure that only qualified people who know the traffic rules ger a driver's license

Since, we are mostly Roman Catholic, we should avoid acting as if we are not. We should uphold the true standards of morality. Our religious leaders can help by recognizing and interpreting the signs of the times, unstead of asking for more tithes and charging higher fees for wedding, baptismal and funera, rites They should encourage genuine love of neighbor and promote morality.

Otherwise, there will be more lying, killing, stealing, red tape, adultery and criminal acts in our

-EN. BELTRAN, U710 42 Timog Ave., Quezoa City

Like a 'scabbarded saber'

RETIRED SUPREME COURT JUSuce Isagan; A. Cruz lauded Justice Romeo Callejo Sr. for the latter's ponencia in National Association of Electricity Consumers for Reforms (Nasecore), et al. v. Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) and Manila Electric Company, which rebed heavily on the decision in the earlier case of Freedom from Debt Coalition (FDC) v. ERC and Meralco (penned by Justice Dante O. Tinga) and cited the Tañada v. Tuvera case. But then Cruz seemed to chide Tinga for not crung Tañada v. Tuvera in his FDC decision. (PDI, 2/10/06)

A reading of Callejo's Nasecore decision would show that it relied on the FDC precedent in declaring void the order of the ERC granting Meraicn's petition for a generation charge increase under the Generation Charge Adjustment Mechanism (GRAM) because the said petition was not published in accordance with the "Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 (Epira) Implementing Rules." Meraico had argued that the publication was not necessary as this was not required by the GRAM implementing rules.

The Court pointed out, however, that the GRAM implementing rules were ineffective because they were not published and, in thus regard, cited the case of Tañada v. Tavera, where the Court held that prior publication of all laws, including those of local application and private laws, is a condition precedent for their effectivity. Through the etoquent pen of Cruz, the Court in Tanada v Tuvera likened unpublished statutes to the "scabbarded saber that cannot feint, parry or cut unless the

It can thus be seen that while both cases concern due process the Court's ruling in Tañada v. Tuvera as to the indispensability of publication for statutes does not really apply to the FDC case.

The main issues in the latter case are (1) whether the ERC has the legal authority to grant provisiona, rate adjustments under the Epira, and (2) whether it committed grave abuse of discretion in issuing an order approving Meralco's provisiona rate increase despite the latter's failure to cause the publication of its application thereby depriving consumers of the needed information to determine whether to contest the appucation and to consider the comments or pleadings of the cusromers and LGJ concerned.

The Court resolved both assues in the affirmative, ruing that while the ERC has the authority to grant provisiona, rate adjustments, its order granting Meralco's application for a provisional rate increase is void because Meralco failed to pubush its application as required by Epira's implementing rules, and because the ERC failed to consider the arguments raised by the opposers in their respective pleadings

There was no issue as to the vandity of the Epira's implementing rules, which were in fact published in accordance with law, unlike the GRAM implementing

-ISMAEL G. KHAN JR., deputy court administrator and chief. Public Information Office, Supreme Court, Padre Raura, Manita

Now comes the presidential pony

I READ THE NEWS THAT GLORIA prove herself up to these de-Macapagal-Arroyo gave her first grandchild a pony as a gift for hex latest hirthday. With all due respect, may I point out the implications of this action. (PDI, 1/10/06)

Our country has been going through a tunnel of hardships for years now. I do not begrudge the pleasure of a child receiving such a prized gift. But the muney used to buy this pony could have fed not only one but many homeless families. And to think that these families don't even have the money to buy a day's meal while the money needed to pay for the pony's food is much more than what is needed to buy a poor man's meal.

As President, Ms Arrayo should realize that her every action counts. How dare she to flaunt her riches before the people while others are starving and dying out in the streets. She stubbornly clargs to power, but power demands great sacrifices. She should

mands. The masses don't think she is, not even after almost five years in the presidency.

This is not about the pony. This is about her being the President, of her being the highest official of the land, of being a servent first to her people, who have pinned in her their hopes for a better life But by this singular gift, she has shown how unfeeling she is as a leader and how readily she can betray their trust in her; and, therefore she is no longer worthy to be this country's teader

She who cannot fee, her people's pain and suffering cannot be a leader because her life is far removed from theirs. She is expected, nay obuged, to give her people a better life, not to flaunt a lifestyle that insults the very people she should be serving.

-ARIELLE SULITE University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City



NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

Regional Office 10 Baloy, Capayan de Oro City

Standard Form Number SF-INFR-05

Contract for the Construction of 100 TCC Warehouse at Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR EXIGIBILITY AND TO BLD

The MATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY, Region 10, through its 8lds and Awards writing (BAC), thetas contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine discrets Approximation Sound (PCAB) with CAP Registration of at least Medium Committee (BAC), the last contractors registered with and classified by the Combactors Appreciation Spard (PCAB) with CAP Registration of at least A to apply for slightly and if found eligible to bid for hereunder project Name of Contract

Brief Description

Asproved Sudget for The Centract (ASC) Treative Million Eight Hundred Stylesen Thousand Nim Hundred Sixteen Pasos & 33/100 (P12 8 8,916.33)

Construction of 100 000 Cervans Capacity Warehouse MFA Georgound, Bairy. Cardayan dis Oro City Commant families the Complete Construction of a "Warehouse Building (25 to k 76 m.)

Hundred Sixteen Pesos & 33/100 (P. 2.8 B One Hundred Eighty (180) Calendar Days Prespective Suddom should possess a current and valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a senser contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have two percented and equipments (issue in the English) Forms a watering for the prospectation of the contract. The BAC will use non-deprehensity passifial criteria in the Englishly Forms passifial criteria in the Englishly Check/Scheening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bats. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Elegibility Statement and Screening God Security Pedermance Security Pre-Bedging Conference, Evaluation of Bids Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 8184 and its Septementing Rules and Regulation (IRR) The schedule of BAC activities are as follows

Schodulo BAC ACLIVITIES February 22 March 7 2006 Receipt from prospective bladers of Lotter of Intent "LON) including Application for Ebgibility and Impulance of Ebgibility Forms March 10, 2008 Submission and Opening of Ebpoorty Require Deading for Submission

Deaning of Englishing Documents Molice of Results of Eligibility Check March 13-14, 2008 4 Insulance of Bid Decuments March 22-24, 2006 March 30, 2006 1 30 PM 2nd Floor Conference Room Pre-Bid Conference Receipt and Opening of Bids April 12, 2008 Deactine Dropping of Sids - 1 30 PM Opening of Bids 1 35 PM

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at the 2nd floor MFA-Regional Office 6-story Cagayan de Crio City upon that submission of a Crio MFA-Regional Office 6-story Cagayan de Crio City upon that submission of 9 Original upon their payment of a non-refundable and agn-transferrable amount of Original public shall be a controlled to the controlled of t and upon that payment of a restriction of the NFA Cashler. Prospective bidders shall submit the Euplobing Requirements to the BAC at the seed address. The may also submill the Elipibility Requirements to the BAC at the seed address. The ma obtain the results of the Elipibility Checks by the BAC as the same address

The BAC will issue Badeng Documents only to bidders declared by the SAC to be explain for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable emount of FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (PS.000,RD) to the NFA Cashier

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY Region 10 seaumes no responsibility isserver to compensate or indemnity for any exponses accurred in the preposation

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LGU loyalty checked

OZAMIZ CITY—PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO'S party mates were burning the lines to check on the loyalty of local government leaders just as the President and her Cabinet announced Friday that a plot to overthrow the Arroyo administration had been foiled

Ocampos revealed that as a crisis in the national capital region was developing, the President's aides were calling up local leaders to solicit their personal stand on the anfolding events.

He said he was among those who received such a call from the Lakas-CMD national directorate. He said the Lakas-CMD national directorate seemed to be conducting a head count of officials who are still loyal to Ms Artoyo.

At the height of calls for the President's resignation in July last year, the strong support of local government leaders was among the key factors that made her survive the worst crisis to confront her since she took power from Joseph Estrada in 2001.

Ocampos said, however, that the situ

Misamis Occidental Gov. Loreto local leaders were not gathered in Mani-Is when the coup was being quelled compared to last year when majority of mayors and governors were convening in the national capital region.

An aide of Ozamiz City mayor Reynaido Paronnog Sc said a senior Malacañang aide first called the may or "as a form of loyalty check."

After learning that Parojinog was "still with them" the Maiacañang aide asked the mayor to convince fellow mayors to also support the President.

At about 2 p.m. Friday, Parolinog told reporters here that 16 of his mayorfriends have registered conducting loyalty to Ms Arroyo especially as it became apparent that the coup was going to fail.

In the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), Gov. Zaldy ation last Finday was different since the Amparuan said provincial governors

and town mayors are "all out to suppost President Macapagal-Arroyo.

He also said the 24 members of the Regional Legislative Assembly have also signified their unity in support ing Ms Arroyo's presidency.

The governor was in Malacanang when the President proclaimed a state of emergency aimed at quelling destabilization plots.

"We will remain loyal to the Constitution and to the duly-constituted authorities," said ARMM's Solicitor General Cynthia Guiani-Sayaddi.

But Jorge Madios, spokesperson of the National Democratic Front in Mindanao, in a statement sent to the DOUBER, said communist rebels would continue their offensives to topple the Arroyo administration.

l am calling on all Filipino people to defend freedom despite the threats of Proclamation 1017," Madles said. Ryun Rosmero, Charlie Señase and Grace

with you.

MOBIL

THE REPORT OF THE PARTY

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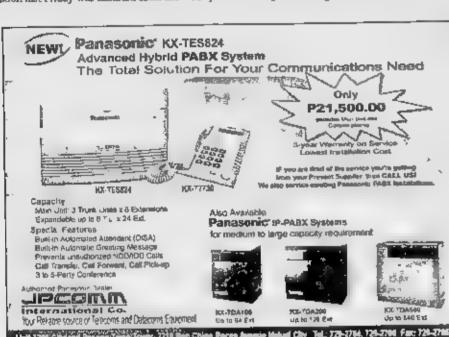
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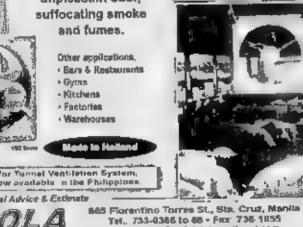




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Order out to cease Sierra Madre logging

LUCENA CITY-ENVIRONMENT SECRETARY Angelo Reyes ordered environment officials to stop rogging in Quezon and the Sierra Madre.

Reyes said he was giving the officials 72 hours to submit a "well validated report" on his order to put a stop to logging.

He also ordered the officials to mordinate with the Task Force Sierra Madre-Infanta (TESM-I), a non-government organization, on the unlawful cutting of trees in the Sierra Madre mountain ranges un Quezon.

He gave the order in the wake of reports by TFSM-I that the illegal cutting of trees in Sierra Madre continues unabated as shown by video footage taken by the group

The footage showed newly cut trees, mostly hardwood species, in the mountain ranges. The TFSM-I findings prompted the Quezon provincial board to appeal to President Maca

pagal-Arroyo to order a stop to the rape of

Reyes was apparently unaware that Antonio Principe, DENR regional executive director, accused officials of TFSM-I of being involved in illegal logging activities in the mountain ranges.

Fr. Pete Montaliana, TFSM-I chair, said Principe's accusation was absurd and was a form of harass ment against the group. The TRSM-I had accessed DENR officials of connivance with illegal loggers.

On Wednesday evening, a group of DENR persomel and policemen armed with a search warrant raided the Church's Social Action Center (SAC) warehouse in Barangay Comon, Infanta and confiscated six newly-made fishing boats. The SAC helped document illegal logging in Sierra Madre.

The raiding team also arrested one Joel Abrao, 28, SAC fishery project offices, and charged him with illegal logging, saying the logs used in making the boats were undocumented. Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luson Bureau



100TS SOBERAND/PDINORTHERN LUZON BLRE

STREET PROGRAM

Some participants in Bagulo City's Flower Festival seize the opportunity to display their feelings about the Arroyo administration on the day a plot to overthrow the

Pilferage eating electric towers

NAGA CITY-STOLEN tower parts of the Transmission Corp. (Transco) are finding their way into auto repaur shops.

The pilferage of metal parts was rampant, forcing Transco management to ask help from communines that host its tow-

ers to stop the theft Nilda Somera, Transco corporate communications officer based here, said the Transco has launched a program called "Bantayos," which mobilizes and gives incentives to barangay

units that would help stop the pilferage She said under the Bantayos, the Transco provides incentives to LGU officials to montor, check and report incidents of pilfering.

Somera also said the Transco and village officials entered into a memorandum of agreement and the company allotted P1,000 per tower to the officials per year

She said aside from these, the Transco also provides livelihood projects in villages where the pulerage of tower parts is rampant

Authorities last year raided auto repair shops, which yielded stolen angle bars bearing engraved National Power Corp. (NPC) names.

Somera said the tower parts that bore the engraved name of the Napocor were submitted in court as evidence against the thieves.

She cited those who had been charged with pilferage of transmission tower parts were Crispin Mopica, Nolito Januario and Alvin Cielos, owners of auto repair shops in the towns of Libmanan and Pampions.

The law penalizes violators with imprisonent from 12 years and a day to 20 years, and fine from P50,000 to P100,000.

Somera said although the pilferage of transmission tower parts was not as bad as that in Quezon province where a transmission line crumbled because of the pilferage, the tower parts' pilferage was rampart in the towns of Ragay, Sipocot, Pamplona, Libmanan and Lupi.

She added that if not checked, the pulerage could cause massive outages.

She said the tower parts, made of galvanized iron, had been transformed into jeep bumpers, under chassis and foundations of tricycle sidecars.

Somera said auto repair shop owners favor the use of these materials because they do not rust easily and are stronger. Juan Escandor Jr., S. L. Bureau

Doc wins P12M suit vs Dutch airline

DAVAG CITY-IT WAS NOT ABOUT MONEY or losing a piece of luggage. For Dr. Jose Tiongco, a neurosurgeon, it was about seeking redress for being humiliated, belittled as a Filipino and not given even a simple apology that he rightly deserved.

The sustcase, he said, can be replaced but not dignity and self-respect

Judge Jaime Quitain, of the Regional Trial Court Branch 10, recently ordered the KLM Royal Dutch. Arrimes to pay Tiangeo P12.6 million in damages,

On Nov. 26, 1998, Tiongeo could not find? his single hard-case luggage containing his forma attare and documents during a stopover in Frankfurt, Germany. He was heading to Alma Ata, Kazakhstan for the World Health Organization summit, where he was invited to speak.

In Frankfurt, the plane arrived 45 minutes late, causing him to miss a connecting flight to Alma Ata.

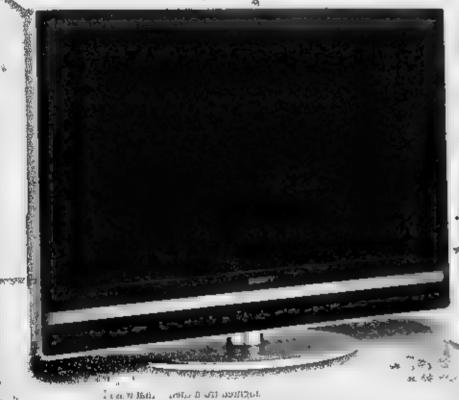
He decided to take the Turkish Air for Islanbul. But he discovered his luggage was missing. "I was so furious," he said when airlines personnel could not provide his item.

"They were so rude and did not even offer

an apology," he added

He arrived and spoke at the WHO summit only in his blue years, sweatshirt and jogging shoes. When he came back to the Philippines, Tiongen decided to file a civil case against KLM. Dennis Jay Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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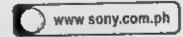
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Noli joins protest against Montaño remains defiant crackdown on media

as a watchdog for exposing social in justice and abuse of power," De Castro said

Warning to media

Conde said that the raid on the offices of the Daily Tribune on Saturday "was a warning to media entities that they would be taken over by government if they are not careful.

This government is trying to destroy our journalistic way of life It hopes to rattle us so we can't do our 10b properly and hope that we become more afraid and more fearful to question the President," Condesaid

"This is not so much an issue of an attack on media but an issue of positica, survival on the part of the President now that her mandate is severely in doubt," Conde

Business as usual

It was business as usual at the Daily Tr bune office

Employees said they had been able to go about their work without interference, but admitted that the presence of police teams since early Saturday had been "distracting."

Tex Jamenez, news editor for GMA 7, said news teams were going on with their "usual" coverage and continue to apply "strict" standards to their stones, which included "getting the other side."

Ed Lingao of the ABC-5 news desk said news coverage was "still the same "

ABS-CBN News chief Marie Ressa stressed that there was no effort on the nerwork's part to tone down their coverage "We continue to be transparent and give the public an accurate preture of what is happening right

Ressa, Lingau and Jimenez all said they had not received any or ders or any pressure from their respective managements to tone down their coverage

Karl Wilson of the Agence France-Presse, who is president of the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Ph ippines, said Focap members would "contipue to do their job "

"This is a ser ous situation that needs to be addressed but in a rational manner. But no way can anyone tel, us what we can and cannot write or shoot," Wilson

Lip versity of the Philippines journalism professor and columnist Lais Teodoro said that while some journalists would be intimidated "ler's do what we have been do og, and write what we have been writing "

Overkill

MOURER publisher Isagani Yambot said Proclamation 1017 and General Order No. 5 were "an overla ." and "should be withdrawn immediately so that we can all return to a situation of normality and calm."

He urged all media organizations and journalists "to join togerher and resist the attempt of the administration to restrict this breedom (of expression, with al. our wil., with all our determina-



PROCLAMATION 1017 AT WORK: Army soldiers patrol the perimeter of ABS-CBN. The AFP remains on high alert after the President declared a state of emergency on Saturday.

tion and with all our strength."

Yambot said he found it "strange that it is the police and the m. dary that are setting the standards for the media."

A day after issuing its warning to the media, the PNP stall could not show guide ines for the publication and broadcast of

The PNP now wanted to "sit down with media officers" so they could help them come up with rules that will guide the press during the state of national emergency, said Senior Supt. Samue, Pagdilao, PNP spokesper-

No technical expertise

The ponce admitted that they did not have the technical skuls to direct the operations of a media group, once they had taken over

it will still be up to Lomibao, however, to determine whether a news organization had crossed "government standards" and therefore needed to be taken over, said Pagd (ao

The PNP will secure the premises of such a media organization so it "won" be used by peopie who would take advantage by us ng it as jump-off board for sed tion materials (meant to) in-

flame the people's passions to go against the government and to bring it down "he said

Rushing to the detense of a beneged press, senators yesterday criticized Lomban.

Drilon, Villar, Pangilman

"He has no business threatenmg the media. A state of emergency does not include censorship of the media." Senate President Frankun Drilon said

Driven remanded Lomibao and the government that the Bill of Rights was not suspended and rema ned in effect under the state of national emergency declared by Ms Arroyo.

it's bad enough that our coun rry is now known as one of the most dangerous places for jour nansts worldwide with the space of media kinings and here they are creating another notoriety as suppressors of press freedom," administration Sen. Manuel Vil-

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pang man said that he, together with Senators Manuer "Mar" Roxas II and Pra Cayetano, would file today a resolution to inquire into the factual and legal basis for the proclamation. With reports from TJ Burgonio, Dona Passibugan and Norman Bordadora



PRESIDENT ARROYO, son Dato and daughter-in-law Kalcathear Mass at the Ermita Church on Sunday.

ROMBH BACADHAS

By Luige A. del Peerto

RETIRED POLICE GEN. RAMON Montaño, detained in connection with an alleged plot to unseat President Macapagal Arroyo, remained defiant yesterday, calling on the people to reast "a regime

Montaño and Anakpawis party-list Rep. Crispin Beltran were arrested on Saturday, a day after Ms Arroyo declared a state of emergency, citing a conspiracy by sordiers, opposition politicians and communist rebels to overthrow her administration

The 69-year-old Montaño said in a telephone interview maitary and police officials should "stop being chickens" and "stand up for their rights, to follow the southers' code of honor which is to protect the people."

"I call (on) the people to resist this regime of evil," he said, refer ring to the Arroyo administra-

said Senior Supt. Samuel Pagdi-ino, spokesperson of the Philippine National Police. He said the courts would determine if Montaño's statementa were legal.

Police swooped down on the Orchard Golf and Country Club in Cavite province on Saturday and 'invited' Montaño to Camp Crame.

Montaño described the arrest as "illegal and absolutely without

"They want to silence me, a former PC (Philippine Constabulary) chief, because if they could stence me then they can silence anybody. But I won't be silenced," Montaño said

Montaño spent the night at the Philippine National Police General Hospital after his blood pressure shot up.

It has since stabilized, he said, Montaño and Beltran were charged with inciting to sedition on Saturday night at the Quezon.

City fiscal s office. The evidence so far gathered We will respect his opinion," (against them) is that they are

part of a conspiracy to commit re-bellion, so this is the basis for their arrest," Lomibao said on Saturday.

A city prosecutor on duty at the time of the inquest has recommended the two men's release, according to police Senior Supt. Benjamin de los Santos.

But De los Santos said the recommendation still needed to be approved by the chief city prosecutor himself.

Former Vice President Teofisto Guingona yesterday visited Beltran and Montaño.

Guingona said Beltran's arrest was "equivalent to a warrantless

"The burden of proof should not be on Beltran," Guingona said, referring to reports that the police had wanted Beltran to show proof that an errest warrant issued against him in 1985 had indeed been dismissed by the court.

The police used the 21 yearold case of inciting to rebellion to i arrest Beltran.

Militants gather at UP

By DJ Yap and Margaux C. Ortiz

HE CALLED, THEY ANSWERED

Away from all the action at Fort Bonifacio, hundreds of militants began gathering on the campus of the University of the Philippines in Di iman. Quezon City, to express sympathy for Marine Co.. Anei Ouerubin.

At 8 30 p.m., members of the Labaning Masa assembled at the foot of Quezon Hau in front of the Ohamon statue in response to Querubin's call for support About 500 demonstrators lit candles and planned their next course of action.

Sanlakas president Wilson Fortaleza said his group was still gathering forces and was deciding whether to join the crowd in

UP Sociology Prof Randy David, Akbayan Rep. Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel, Mayong Aguja and Parodo ng Manggagawa Rep. Renato Magrubo were among those at the candle-sit demonstra-

A few kilometers from the military camp, around 300 members of different militant groups gathered last night at a Makati City park in a continuing attempt to defy Ms Arroyo's

"emergency rule."

Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes said that at 8 p.m., his group decided to assue a call for vigils, noise barrages and gatherings all over the country in support of the country's patriotic soidiers and in defiance of Ms Ar-, royo's declaration of a state of emergency.

After meeting at the corner of Buendia and Ayala Avenues, the . militants decided to march toward Pasong Tamo Extension and join their comrades in Fort Bonifacto in support of relieved Marine commandant Gen. Renato

Cory barred entry to Marine camp

President Macapagal Arroyo.

With Aquino were her children, members of the so-called Hyatt 10 and former Sen. Loren.

They were in a convoy of vehilcies when they were stopped by a police barricade one kilometer from the Manne base, forcing them to walk in the practically empty and dark streets

The only bright lights inside the camp were at the Manne headquarters that teemed with the protesting soldiers.

Some people brought food

The camp was quiet except for the sound of footsteps of people walking toward the Marine headquarters, vehicles that made their

drone of helicopters flying overhead. A parricade of policemen in blue camouflage uniforms

blocked the entry of vehicles at the camp's Gate 3, forcing people living asside the camp to walk. Some men aughted from their

cars to negotiate entry into Gate 3 but backed off at the sight of poficemen carrying shields and automatic offer

Small groups of people were carrying plastic bags of food.

At the end of Pasong Tamo Extension, where Gate 3 of the camp bes, residents of civilian communities were walking outside their houses.

Worried residents

At a community deeper in the camp, residents with puzzled and worned looks on their

soldiers and policemen carrying assault rifles. Electricity at a slum area in the

camp's outskirts was cur off, the darkness forcing residents of clapboard houses out into a street that was filled with soldiers carrying Armaine rifles. At another end of the camp

near Forbes Park, Marines stood guard and set up their own barticades made of concrete blocks and a wrecker

The Marines allowed vehicles entry after inspection. A Marine barracies just across the barricade was in darkness. People made their way into the camp on foot, or packed in th cycles or cabs that were allowed entry by the Marine guards.

SUVs were seen entering Bonifa. cio Heights, an upscale residential ecemmunity just a kilometer away :

Taekwondo gives howling

mothers, all of whom are 70 or older, practicing the high-locking and hard-punching martia, art of tackwondo at a gymnasium in Inchon, about an hour west of Sepul. The tradiponal Korean martial

art is widely taught in South Korean schools and most young men in the country team tackwords as part of compulsory multary service. But for these grandmothers,

tackwordo is a way to keep themselves happy and healthy.

Smashing

"Smashing! I really like smashing the slabs. It releases my stress that I get from home," said Jl, who has been practicing the mattial art for nine years. Ja, who has five grandchildren,

is a black-belt holder and leads the class.

Almost half of the grandmothers have reached the highest-level ranking of holding black belts.

While most taeltwondo atbletes aspire to smash wooden or ceramic tiles with their feet, hands or head, the grandmothers mostly break plastic tiles with prefabricated fissures.

There is no granny-un-granny fighting during practices but several of the septuagenarium said they were ready to fend off an attacker.

Howling like Bruce Lee

While practicing her high ticks, 74-year-old Cho Jong-jac bowls like kung-fu legend Bruce Lee, and the other grandmothers break into laughter.

"I haven't been sick once since I started coming here three years ago, i'm here because it's fun. If it

wasn't, I wouldn't want to do it," brittle bones. says Cho, who has a red belt

Yet 77 year old Kim Her-bok, who is the oldest of the group, focuses more an allower movements and stretches, Before she began learning the sport, she had troubee simply moving.

She had been suffering from diabetes and arthritis for years.

"I couldn't even walk up five flights of stairs before Now, I can go up more than

50-60 stairs," she says. She beard about the lessons from her fellow classmases and asked her son and daughter to walk her to class every day until she was finally

*Coming here is much better than going to the hospital. Even my doctor says to attend the class every day." Master Your Yeo-ho has been

able to walk on her own.

teaching senior citizens for 15 years and constantly experiments with ways to make tackwondo more granny-friendly. There been teaching tackwon-

do to senior citizens and they said it has beloed with artistics, diabetes and being overweight," he said. Some doctors said the martial art can help older people stay

healthy, as long as they avoid being on the receiving end of a kick to the head. Taelewoodo is a combination of

curtificascular exercises, muscle training and it also helps flexibility. It is good for heart-related diseases, releasing stress and preventing one from feeling old," says Dc Yoo Thil-woo of Seoul National University's department of family medicine.

But adjustments are required when breaking blocks and kicks," the cautioned for seniors with

Sweat, kicks

Although teacher Youn is happy to see the senior citizens enjoying themselves, he says it is not always easy teaching them the moves.

They would forget what I taught them after one hour later or a day later," Youn said.

Youn heads the Korea Grandma. TKD Federation, which focuses on teaching grandmes the sport and hosts tackwondo contests for them. Several of the grandmothers in Yoon's class received awards, which stand on bookshelves in the back of the studio.

The sport's official association in South Korea is thrilled about the grandmas' enthusiasm for tackwondo, which became an official sport at the 2000 Sydney Olympics, and hope to get them involved in national competi-

Wet with sweat

"We support them because they are breaking the stereotype that tackwoodo is a difficult sport," said Kim Moon-cheon, a training manager of the Koren Taekwondo Association Competi-

Yoon goes through one last; routine of the two-hour session.

"We're doing well!" a grandmother shouts after they complete a final punch.

The class comes toward an end with stretches coordinated to a local tune that was first popular when they were young.

Teel my back. It is wet with sweat," one grandmother said, grabbing her feilow classmate's Reutert

1017: **Press** main target

From page Ai

constituted government exected in May 2004 and raided the offices of the Tribune newspaper critical of the administration. Those arrested were former PNP chief Ramon Montafio and Rep. Crispin Beatran, a refust congressman representing the Anakpawis party-list group.

The police actions left little doubt that the press has become a main target of the crackdown and the raids signaled a direct assault on the freedom of the press guar anteed by the Bill of Rights of the Constitution

The raids have created apprehension in the media over what media organizations would be

raided next, but the proclamation and general orders issued by the President to the national ponce to implement the proclamation have clearly indicated that press freedom has not been effectively curtailed in a degree not seen since President Ferdinand Marcos shut down newspapers and media networks in a total campdown of the press following the declaration of martial law in September

The media should not have any illusion that Proclamation No. 1017 has effectively ended freedom of the press as they have

Although the Marcos ciampdown on media was total and sweeping, the Arroyo crack-



THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE released this photo of Director General Arturo Lorribao's visit to the headquarters of the Special Action Force where he heard Mass and received communion.

down, which is being done incrementally, piecemeal and selectively, is no less a fatal body blow to press freedom, the first freedom to go under when a dictatorship is estabushed. With the proclamation, Philippine democracy has lost one of its key underpinnings of political liberty

More than the politicians and the members of the extreme Right and the extreme Left, the first victim of the crackdown is the media, accused by the administration of allegedly fueling political conspiracies aimed at overthrowing the government.

President Arroyo issued the proclamation in response to what it claimed was a systematir conspiracy of a tactical alliance of opposi-

tion politicians, military groups involved in comp plots and of communist rebels to overthrow the government. The thwarting of the plot triggered the proclamation.

followed The proclamation claims by the government that it had uncovered and aborted a plot to topple the government. The fuiling of the plot led to the arrest last week of two senior officers -Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim and Col Ariel Querubin, brigade commander in Lanco del

The government claimed that Lim had planned to announce withdrawal of support of his unit for the government, that he had tried to persuade other military leaders to support the withdrawal, and that the withdrawal would have been the signal for the rebellious mustary units to join a general uprising together with civilian groups that had been demanding ouster of the Arroyo regime.

In announcing the thwarting of the plot, President Arroyo said, some officers had "tried to break out of the Armed Forces chain of command ... and establish a regame outside of the Constitution." The involvement of the press in the conspiracy, according to the President, is that the claums of "these elements" of the conspiracy as a tactical alliance of the "historical ene-

mies of the democratic Philippine state" bave been "reckiessly" magnified by certain segments of the

To counter this conspiracy, the President invoked constitutional emergency powers that authorize her to call out the Armed Forces "to prevent and suppress rebellion" and authorize her to "temporarily take over or direct operation of any privately owned public utility or business affected with public in-

The President ordered the Armed Porces "to maintain law and order throughout the Philippines, prevent or suppress all forms of lawless violence as well as any act of insurrection or rebellion, and to enforce obedience to all the laws and to al. decrees, orders and regulations promulgated by me personally or upon my direction."

The proclamation gave a blanket authority to the mutary and national police in the implementation of the proclamation and in compliance of all presidential decrees and orders.

It is on the basis of these instrucnons that the Philippine National Police carried out the crackdown of the press. General Order No. 5 issued by the President last Friday gave the police and the military powers to carry out "necessary and appropriate actions and measures to suppress and

revent acts of terrorism."

PNP Director General Arturo 7 Lomibao warned on Saturday the PNP would take over any media orga-i mzation that would not follow "standards set by the government" during the national emergency. The setting? up of standards defined by government in effect establishes censorship.

Lomibao said a government team would examine the editorial contents of newspapers and the news or views arred by broadcast stations to see if these conform to these standards. He said "we will recommend (action) based on our evaluation." He said, "If they (the news groups) do not follow the standards-and standards are if they would contribute to instability in the government, (or) if they do not subscribe to what is in General Order No. 5 and Presidential Proclamation No. 1017-we will recommend (a) takeover)".

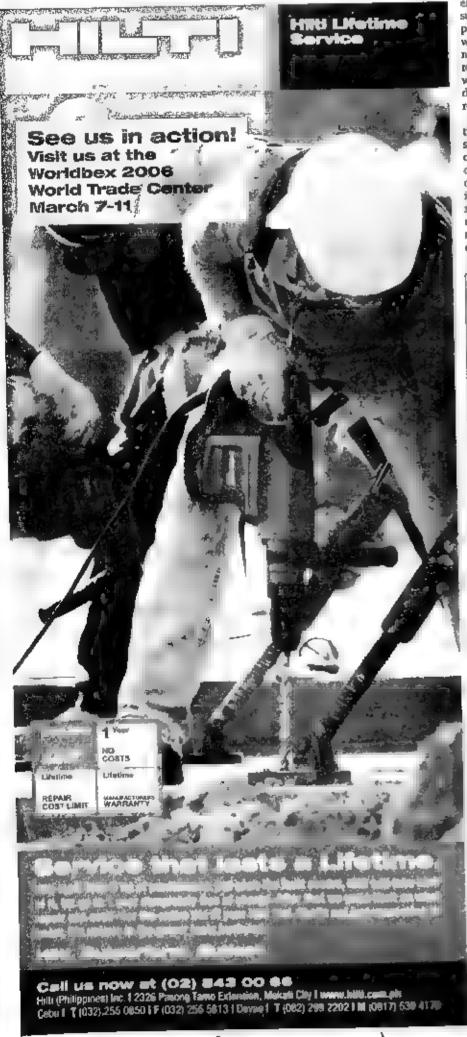
Violations of standards will be "left to the judgment of the PNP, and other agencies that are empowered to implement the order "Appropriate actions" refer to "actions which are hurting the Phihppine, state by obstructing government, including hindering the growth of the economy and sabotaging the people's confidence in govern-ment, and their faith in the future

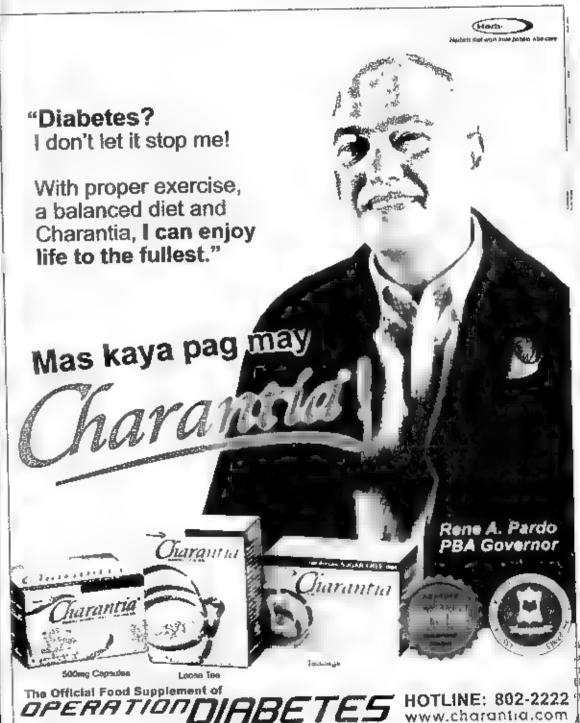
of this country."

Press Secetary Ignacio Bunye has' said the government would issue? guidennes on stories that "con-" tribute to the exacerbation of the nastional emergency. So far the guide-J lines have not been issued, but these! would clearly amount to censorship, It was not clear yesterday whether the Tribune would be taken over by the government or whether its editors would be arrested. The presidentia, chief of staff, Michael Defensor, issued a yet another chilly warn ing to the media about the risks they faced in publishing stories that might be deemed inflammatory by the government. He said the raid on the Tribune offices was meant to show a "strong presence, to tell media outlets not to connive or do anything that would help the rebeis in bringing down government "

The general order and these state. ments point to the takeover by government of a broad range of discretionary powers in deciding whether to take over media outlets, arresting journalists and stories are offensive to the State. Defensor said, while the government did not want to stifle press freedom, "This is an abnormal situation ... there is a possibility of an armed takeover of the government A government has a right to

The proclamation has forced the press to define how it would operate within these restraints in the exercise of freedom of the press on behalf of





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EDSATIT

THE PEOPLE

smell that?"

"Smell, what," lanswered.

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"We looked at each other and started laughing. I started getting goose birmps, the sort of thing you feel when you get overly dramane and start saying corny things like that. But deep down inside, you actually believe it." -Norbert Marchadesch

I couldn't go home

"There was a rumor that Marcos soldiers would attack. There was a report that Rames was distributing guns to willing civilians. I could not go home. How will I look tomorrow in front of my officemates?"-Sofronio Dulay, office worker

Biggest party ever

We can bring the food at Edsa and share it with the people there and still we can be part of the People Power. You will have the biggest party ever. You will remember this when you grow up." -Dr. Vivencio Santos to his son Jose Guido on his 9th birthday

Shining and glorious

Trrefutably, Edsa I was a shiring and glorious moment in our nation's historg" -Christopher L. Carrion, founding chair, Spirit of Edsa Foundation

Grade two

"I was in grade two then, full of hope and dreams, unwary of what life really had to offer. With the few pesos I got from the coin bins in our cars, I was able to buy some crackers from the corner store. Then I got powdered juice from the littchen cabinet. I also used the popular karaoke of the '80s with microphone and we had a party." -Evan Glenn S. Vista, M.D.

How happy we were!

"There were tanks on the Delta rottinda coming in our direction, but they

The smell of freedom

people on Quezon Avenue. Another tank tried to come in through West Avenue to Edsa. We carried candles. The married women with us carried their children with them. The girls with us carried flowers which they gave to the soldiers. They rurned back. How happy we were!" -Rev. Ciriaco Ganchorre, National City United Church

People have spoken

"Marcos is doomed. There is no way he can disperse this growd now. It's only a matter of time. The people have spoken and won." -Leslie Abelardo, retired insurance executive

High-fives

"The tension finally vaporized one mght. Everybody in Jaro, and elsewhere suppose, was out on the streets. Cars blowing their horns, people giving highfives to everybody. It was better than any celebration or street gathering I have been to all my life. Everybody just seems to know everybody else. They were my brothers and sisters. There are no words to describe it." -Gabriel Marcelo Torre, a former seminarian

Balut vendor

"What deeply touched me was the sight of a bulut vendor voluntarily giving the basketful of balut he was selling. I was so touched that I felt tears rolling down my eyes. Yes, I cried silently." -Antomo P Lucero

was there

The entire avenue was full to the brim with people. It was a breathtaking view. A sea of humanity participating in what would be known as the first People Power revolution in the world. And I was there, in the midst of it." -Nicolo del

Barbed-wire souvenirs "At around 8 30 p.m., I found myself

in Mendiola with thousands of demon-

path. People were chanting anti-Matcos slogars. There were singing of nationalistic songs. Some, using their bare hands, cut the barbed wire as a souvenir. I did the same and got a share of my souvenir." Jun Sambalilo

Call for vigil

"I was part of a small group of underground militia then, named Samahan ng mga Mandirigma sa Kalunsuran, or SMK .. Our legal front was one of the first to heed the call for vigil at Edsa." -Alexander A. Orlino

We are all Filipinos

"As the Marines approached our posttion, I acreamed, 'We are all Filipinos, we love you." It became a battle cry, I was given a bullhorn and I led the people in chanting this." -Roberto Abellar Sarreal

When my younger brother, then a junior Constabulary officer came home and told us to go to Edsa, I did not ask him why. I put my family-my mother and father, now both dead, brothers, sisters, sons, nephews and neighbors in my peep and sped away to Edsa." -Joel J. Santo Domingo

What a sight!

"We were in Ouezon Avenue when we were told to use my car to block the street because ranks sent by Marcus were coming. There were many nuns there and soon were all praying the rosary. Soon we were confronted with young Marines. From the looks of the soldiers, i knew they were at a loss, for they did not know who the enemies were. I shed tears when one by one, the soldiers brought their armalites down and started to receive rosaries, flowers and sandwiches from us. What a sight!" Atty, Estrella O.

ice cream treat

"I was a college student in Zamboun-

"MY COUSIN ASKED ME, 'CAN YOU turned back when they saw hundreds of strators. Barbed wires blocked our ga. We had a tailoring shop next to which was an ice cream factory run by a Chinese, Mr. Tan. He said that if Marcos was ousted, he would treat everyone with ice cream. That night, he kept his promise." -Gerky Valenco

Jugs of water

"From Day 1 to Day 4, people whose houses we passed by would prepare jugs of water and fruit junces and sandwiches and give them to the marchers." -Rudy

People danced

"When news came that Marcos was gone, people danced, sang and shouted at the top of their voices." -Dodo

"I was 13 when Edsa 1 happened. As far as I can remember, the atmosphere on those glorious, triumphant days can't be described by a single word. During those days, we were all busy making sandwiches, enoking rice and adobo. We didn't have any idea that this event would turn into an unforgettable history of the Philippines."-Analen M. Pelagio

I cried and prayed

"My husband and I were tuned in to Radio Veritas the night Cardinal Sin called on the people to protect the soldiers inside Camp Crame and Camp Aguinaldo. I can't explain why, but I cried and cried and prayed the Holy Rosary continuously, I guess, while we lived in the province at the time (Cagayan de Oro City), we were conscious of and felt the happenings in Manila." Judith T. Seguerra

2 years old at Edsa

"I was only two years old when Edsa ended the Marcos dictatorship. I regretfully have no memories of it although pictures of me and my brother amidst the mass of people are proof that I was there. So I am content with the stories

my parents tell when their memories are awakened by the right of these faded, moldy photos. For those of as born too late, second-hand memories will have to suffice." -Piya Cruz Constantino

The first press conference of Juan Ponce Enrile sent shivers up my spine. This was the first time someone went against Ferdinand Marcos. It was hard to tel, if what was unfolding before us was true or just a "zarzuela" of the Marcoses. But when ruggedly clothed men unloaded sacks and sacks of high-powered firearms from unmarked cars and vans, I realized it was for real." - Joe Galves, photojournalist

Ready to shed blood

"On the second night, we heeded the call of a self-proclaimed "commander" to secure Camp Crame's gate on Santolan Road. We were briefly "trained" "rehearsed" is probably the better word-how to lie down on the ground to deter any advancing tanks and taught how to soak "Good Morning" towels with cold water to protect our selves against tear-gas. That was the most nerve-wracking, heart-pumping and probably the silliest situation I had gotten myself into during the entire revolution. I was determined to shed my own blood if necessary. Goodness, there was no need." - Gerry DC, dei Rosario

Freddic Aguilar

"One of the most dreadful incidents the first night we camped at Edsa was the tear-gassing of people manning the barricades at Libis and Santolan. The next evening, using a PC-INP six-by-six truck as a stage, Freddie Aguilar treated us to an impromptu concert. He had just started his third song when word came that tanks were on their way to Crame People were simply dismayed, but at times like those one had to expect the unexpected." -Saturnino S. Nanolan, research consultant

Muslims were there, too

nic backgrounds and beliefs to band together to reclaim their posterity.

The day after the desperate appear of then Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile, then Gen. Fidel V Ramos and the late Jaime Cardinal Sin for public support against an imminent attack by government military forces, our group from Maharlika Village in Tagurg joined the large throng that had gathered between Camo Aguinaldo and Camp Crame

Several men led by Col. Manano Santiago approached us. They were recruiting warm bodies to man the barricades being organized for all the gates of the two camps. For no other reason than being the oldest and perhaps the most suicidal-looking in our group, I was designated to organize Company "D" which would be post tioned at Gare 2 of Camp Aguinaido from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m.

More than a hundred men and

women from Maharlika, the Quiapo Mosque and the Tandang Som Muslim communities responded to our call. We turned down the women and warned the 85 men of Company D that not all of us could expect to return alive. Per the instructions of Colonel Santiago, there were to be no weapons of any kind. Since our buses could not go beyond

Shaw Boulevard, we marched double file behind our standard, a yellow crescent and star on a field of green. Buses blocked the road and many tires were on fire at the corner of Edsa and Ortigas Avenue. The sight was as surrealistic as it was threatening and reminiscent of a Mad Max movie

Muslim flag unfurled

The people we passed along the way cheered and applauded loughly. Some shouted. The Muslims are here! The Muslims are here!" That flag has not been unfurled and flown since the end of Edsa 1.

When we reached Gate 2, a group

called "Confess" had already taken posinon. We divided the entrance into two and positioned ourselves on the right side. Defiance and uncertainty mingled in our minds. Nobody knew if we would make it to the next day. During our vigil a guitar materialized,

and many of us stayed awake, singing southern tribal songs and trying to whap our adrenalin into war frenzy against sleep and the unknown fate that awaited us. Throughout those mights, there was an

incessant supply of food. Recrimination our between people insisting to pay and vendors adamarsly refusing payment. Who would have thought we would see days like those mine eyes have truly seen the glory!

Sometime close to midnight, a truck arrived and distributed pizza boxes to our twin barricades. Our self-appointed and alert "Quality Control" brethren stopped the distribution when they saw there was pork in it. Those who already received their boxes gave them to the

members of Confess.

But miracles do happen and out of nowhere, another truck arrived bringing fried chicken. The driver shouted, "For the Muslims only!" It was in that one moment we felt that we were truly a part of this Republic's momentous transition; that night "For Muslims only" meant food and not bullets.

Late on the third night, a person idearifying himself as "Magsaysay" asked me and the leader of the Confess group to enter Camp Crame with him. We were led to a dimly lit room to join other barricade "commanders" who were gathered around a table where then Col. Ismael Villareal gave us a situationer and instructions on courses of action

Unknown to us, my wife and some women from Maharlika managed to reach Santolan Road behind Camp Agumaldo just outside Blue Ridge subdivision and joined a human 'kapit-buig' barricade directly blocking the way of the armored column of General Tadiar.

She later recounted how the loyalist soldiers' fixed bayonets on their rifles, covered their faces with bandanas and started assaulting the barricade's first line with rifle butts. Many people at the barricade, struck

by rifle butts, fell to the ground. My wife said that the stark reality of their impending death never daunted their determination nor broke the kepit-bisig lines. It was only after the soldiers retreated that her knees began shaking uncontrollably. One of her companions literally wet her pants

For their gallantry we have included our women folk as full members of Company "D" bringing our total number to 134

Many of the brethren with us those three days have since passed away, others as noncombatant victims of "Muslim Policy" and a few as combatants, Meanwhile, those of in who are still alive today have grown 20 years older and are still waiting for our new day to begin.

THE MEDIA

matic events for my agency, the New York-based Urfited Press International.

It did occur to me that we-myself nd the hacks who had camped out there-were being used as human nhields.

I thought that if all hell broke loose and I did a good job, I would land a

It's something that's crossed my mind tince I read John Hohenberg's "Foreign Correspondents." Or was it Evelyn Waugh's "Scoop"? That sent me knock ing at the door of UPI in Manila, then its Asian headquarters, ages ago

UPI at that time was one of the world's top two news agencies. The other was the Associated Press, a cooperative of US newspapers.

We were smaller, leaner and meaner. The thought pumped the adrenation

Our people in the field were always dutnumbered by the opposition, but rarely outreported.

We knew Every day, New York sent foreign logs for ams and pms-a scorecard showing how many of the major morning and evening newspapers in the US, our main market, used UPI or AP on any given story overseas.

We lived or died reading those logs. We got "rockets" if we goofed, or "hero-

grams" if we rapped 'em. For us working in the wires, or news

The tears fell 20 years later

agencies, it was "deadline every minute" because of the different time zones and demands of our chents—newspapers, radio and television—in different countries. The one-minute beat was always something to aspire for on a breaking story.

Imagine you are a newspaper editor. You have a bank of four teletype machines spewing out copy nonstop from UPI and AP, along with the British news agency Reuters and Agence France-

As crunch time, on a major breaking event, you will use only the first story on the wire, or the one that is better written, or has a lot more sight, smell, sound.

Nothing less than total commitment was required.

Even while taking a shower, I was listening to an all news radio station, shutting off everything else. Funny, but the only songs I can burn are the sounds of the '60s-the music of my youth.

A Filipino working for an international agency-especially for a chief of bureau like me in his own country can't go overboard on a story if he is to compete with those gweiles, Chinese for for-

You have to be ultra objective, even if

the story hits you in the gut. also found that being a native could be a heavy baggage in this business here, especially during the martial law days, for a bost of reasons.

At the end of the Agrava Commission hearings on the 1983 Benigno Aquino asassination, everyone was waiting for its The first report to come out was from

the legal team, prepared by the commission's chief counsel, Andres Narvasa, a man I had deeply admired as Clarence Darrow personified

He went to the Manila Hotel, where the foreign correspondents hang out, and gave it to some of them, I was later told. The next day, I got a "rocket" from

New York. Accompanied by Gabby Tabunar of CBS, I went to his house to see if I could get a copy. He barked at me: "What gave you the right to demand for a copy of my

I said I covered the hearings every sixgle day. If there's anyone who deserved to have it, it was I, not the parachute types working up a hangover at a hotel

We left empty-handed.

Also hobbling was the thought that I could be thrown in Jail, while the other guys could only be PNGed-declared persons non grata—and expelled

When we reported that soldiers had shot Ninoy Aquino, the Palace information office was on the phone to me immediately, threatening to file triminal libel, close down our bureau and cancel subscriptions of our Manila clients.

I normally did not think about these things when I covered stories. But, they were there at the back of my mind.

They didn't stop me from wirming a Catholic press award in Manila. This was when the church was coaxing a pliant Philippine press to come out of its shell.

For the Aguino assassination, I and two colleagues got a citation of excellence from the Washington-based Overseas Press Club of America and a UPI nomination to the Pulitzer

I was one of the last foreign correspondents to talk to an obviously ailing Marcos. In a rambling, two-hour interview, he told me he was tasked by God to reform this nation of "indifferent souls resigned to desperate hopelessness."

Edsa I was a story I had waited for [had passed up chances to go on an Edward Murrow fellowship to the Cetter for Strategic Studies in New York and a sabbatical at Michigan University.

I wanted to be part of Philippine history, to be able to write its first draft

When Edsa I broke out, I was in Cebu covering Cory's disobedience campaign. I bedgered PAL to get me on board its last flight to Manila, expecting that airports across the country could be closed

I went straight to Camp Aguinaido, joined the bunch of journalists running around like headless chickens, walung for bombs to fall.

What I had witnessed, and wrote, was now a blue, but I was there on every one of those dramatic moments, steeling myseif to be insensitive.

My news instincts remained even while I was already out of UP!

Moments after 9/11 occurred, 1 walked into the UN office in Skopje in Macedonia, engulfed in a civil war at the time. I was led to the TV room, where American colleagues were crying

When I watched what had happened, my initial reaction was to write "leads" in

That Edsa I turned the way it did was indeed a miracle. And we were all lucky As a reporter and later a UN staff, I paw devastation caused by wars, civil strife and ethnic conflicts in the Balkans,

in Asia, in Africa from south of the Sahara to Angoia. Many times working alone with only a driver beside me, I evacuated visages under siege in the snow-covered mounttains of Kosovo and helped send human-

tarian aid to Iraq and Afghan refugees. Conflicts are cruel no matter what

they are called And I thought I've seen it all, done that-over there and over here-and didn't shed a tear-until I started reading all those vignettes our readers sent to mark the 20th anniversary of one of our

greatest triumphs as a nation. They tug at the heart.

Marine standoff at Fort Bonifacio is over

From page Al

The crowds that had gathered at the north and south gates of Fort Bonifacio also dispersed.

Querubin's protest enincided with unconfirmed reports that Marine and other elite units, like the First Scout Rangers Regiment and the police Special Action Force, might declare their withdrawal of support from Ms Ar-Toyo anytime soon.

Military spokespersons denied there was a split in the military ranks and reaffirmed the Armed Forces' loyalty to the Constitution and the government.

"We're doing this to support our beleaguered commandant," Overvbin said earlier in the afternoon. "Til wait for the people to come here to protect us, to protect us from aggression. I expect that to happen, he said at the chapel of his unit's headquarters at about 5 p.m.

Querubin letter appealed for support from the religious, particularly the bishops. "I hope the bishops will not forsake us," he said.

Heeding Querubin's call for support, former President Corazon Aguino said last night that she was prepared to go inside the camp with members of her family.

But at 9:05 p.m., Aquino, who was on Pasong Tamo Extension in Makari, near the camp, said there were specific instructions to the pouce "not to allow me to go inside" the camp.

She said the instructions came from Vidai Querol, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office.

lingo Zobei also went to the Marine headquarters to talk to Querubin, saying that the colonel was his "kumpare." Zobel is the sun of the late businessman Enrique Zober

Seen at the camp were Senators Rodoifo Biazon, a former Marine commander, and Ramon Magsaysay Jr., former Vice Prestdent Teofisto Guingona and other politicians.

A group of Franciscan sisters and other religious people huddled, some sitting on the ground, in front of Gate 3 of the miluary camp in Makati City to pray.

A phaianx of police personnel twas standing in front of the nuns trying to move them from their position but they were not yielding an

Also among those who turned up were Liwayway Vinzons-Chato of the Movement for Truth and Justice, Hernan Tu-Laurel of the Oust Gloria Coastion, Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos and actress Menssa Mendez.

"We're here to show support for the Marines," Chato said.

'was not true that Miranda had vol- by some troops to withdraw supdown as head of the Marines but that he was re-

Col. Tristan Kison, the military spokesperson, said Miranda was replaced for "personal reasons."

 Miranda were to see his immediate superior, Navy chief Vice Adm.



THREE ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS back up the protesting troops inside the Marine compound.

FOLLOWING THE LEADER, Marines line up inside their headquarters in Fort Bonifacio signifying their support for Col. Arisi Querubin. The bernedailed officer, who was sacked for his afleged vote in the attempted coup last Friday, was

protesting the relief of his commandant, "who was like a father to me." AFF

Mateo Mayuga, and asked to be relieved of his command, Kison said.

Miranda is a member of Philippine Military Academy Class 1974, which includes Army chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon.

Like a father

Querubin said he did not want Miranda, whom he described as being "like a father," to take the fall

The 7,000-strong Marine Corps Querubin, in full uniform, said it was dragged into the alleged plan port from the President after Osterubin and Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, commander of an Army Scout Ranger regiment based in Bulacan, fell under suspicion and were relieved of their commands on Friday. Also relieved was police Special Action Force commander Chief

Supt. Marcelino Pranco.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Burrye said yesterday that Lim and Overubin had gone to see Gen. Generoso Senga, Armed Forces chief of staff, on Thursday to warn him "that reserve young officers and soldiers planned to join rallies" planned by opposition forces on

The aim was to "provide critical mass and the armed component to the procests.

Medal of Valor

Soth officers were sacked after they told their superior that "they might not be able to dissuade the troops from their plan, and there were indications that the two may also join them," Burrye said in a statement.

The President declared a state of

emergency on Priday over the alleged coup plot.

Querubus, a Medal of Valor awardee and commander of the 1st Marine Brigade based in Marawi City until he was relieved, admitted for the first time that he and his men had planned to join the railies at Edsa organized by various anti-Arroyo groups on Fri-

day.
"We told (Miranda) we were going to march to Prisa without arms around 10 or 11 a.m. (last Friday) We were prevailed upon by our commandant. We followed the chain of command," he said

Defensive position

He said that "majority of the Marines" would have joined him in that protest march.

What will they charge us with.

is it coup d'east if you march with-

out arms?" he said on ANC. After speaking to reporters, Querubin walked to the Marine headquarters about 500 meters away where he said he would "take a defensive position."

Querubin was accompanied by some 50 civilians who formed a human chain around him.

The majority

Aliaga arrived later and said he had come to take Questibin into custody. But Querubin had refused to go with Allaga.

aren inside mander's lounge, Querubin said it was not true that he had been takes into custody, and added that he was, in fact, trying to encounce Aliaga to join them in protesting the relief of Miranda.

Security was beefed up at Marine headquarters with three heavlly armed Marine companies and three armored personnel carriers (APCs) standing guard in front of the headquarters building.

Querubin said the three companies all supported him. Asked bow many Marine officers were behind him, he said "the majority."

RAM T-shirts

The civilians surrounding Querubin wore T-shirts bearing the logo of the Reform the Armed Forces Movement As media men hounded Queru-

bin in front of the Marine headquarters, members of the Partido ng Masang Pilipino prayed the At around 6:30 p.m., a phalanx of policemen wielding shields tried

to form in front of the gate, but they were prevailed upon to leave by the Marines. At around 6:45 p.m., Hernan

Tiu-Laurel led the crowd in singing "Lupang Hinirang" and "Bayan Ko" for the Marines.

"We're here to support the Marines now that their eyes have been opened. They are on our side," actress Mendez said.

Others watching developments behind the barbed wire in front of the Marine headquarters were members of women's groups under Partido ng Masang Pilipuno.

Speaking to three Marine companies in front of the headquarters milding. Overubin called on the men to unite

"After this, if we are united, we will not disintegrate. This is the time to unite and let us protect the people."

At around 8 p.m., about 150 heavily armed Marines were standing guard outside the Marine headquarters building. They were carrying high-powered firearms of different calibers.

Backed by 3 APCs

The Marines, backed by three armored personnel carriers, looked tense and appeared to be confused by the events unfolding before

About 100 civilians milied around the headquarters building. The other civilians who had come were lawyers Argee Guevara and JV Bautista and movie director Carlitos Siguion-Reyna.

Former Telecommunication Undersecretary Josefina Lichauco soined a group praying in front of the Marines HQ gate. "We're showing support for what is righteous," she said.

In the absence of reforms and in view of the griping in the military, the President should resign, Magsaysay said.

The bureaucrats should resign because they're unfit. They're mismanaging the economy and bureaucracy," he said. With a report from Luige dei Puerto

Palace lets AFP

From page Al

Scout Rangers that will be joining some elements of the Philippine Marines that will make trouble last Friday and that was why there was a decision to declare a state of emergency," he

The situation is under control but it still needs to be handled with care because the situation can worsen or result in bloodshed," he said before the Marines returned to barracks.

Defensor said Querubia, who called for support from the people yesterday, "Is saying things out of hand."

"I hope he thinks about the country," Defensor said.

The Palace Issued a statement saying that Querubin would be taken into custody. It also said there were no troop move-

"All other statements to the contrary are disinformation being circulated by JV Ejercito," the statement said, referring to the San Juan mayor and son of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Senga denies defection

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga also appealed to politicians at the camp and others not to exploit the situation and to allow the military to resolve the standolf

peacefully.

He dismissed as "unfounded" rumors that he had switched sides and was now supporting those in the military who wanted to withdraw support from Ms Ar-

"We can resolve this within the AFR within the Marines. Let's hope other people will not exploit this," he said.

Justifies 1017

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said that the Marine uscident only justifled the President's decision to declare an emergen-

"What is happening now is a continuation of what should have been done last Priday," Bunye said in a news conference.

"It gives strong ground for Proclamation 1017," Bunye said.

Bunye said the President's economic team had recommended the lifting of the emergency declaration, but because of "intervening events" the proposal would have to be re-

Neda chief Romulo Neri said the team had thought the markets would react well starting today. Had it not been for yesterday's incident, it could have been possible for the proclamation order to have been lifted to-

day.
"It's now up in the air," Trade Secretary Peter Pavila sald.

Querubin among the 'dead' in 1989 rebel assault on Camp Aguinaldo

By Fe B. Zamora

EVERY TIME COUP RUMORS SWEEP the military camps, President Macapagal-Arroyo would host a dinner with the "usual suspects" as guests. One of them was Col. Ariel Querubin, a Medal of Valor awardee and one of the Armed Forces' most respect-

In one of the dinners, the officers would candidly teil Ms Arroyo about the sentiments of the soldiers, Querubin told the lu-QUIRER last month.

He said one of the issues raised was the "Hello Gard" tapes and how the soldiers have been clamoring for an explanation on the alleged involvement of the President in electoral fraud, as mentioned in the wiretapped conversations between President Arroyo and Comelec Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano.

"She looked to the ceiling, she looked to the floor, and she said sh., sh., um ... Queruhin told the biquium. The President did not give us an assurance that she would look into the issue," he said.

Querubin, who was detained for leading a rebet attack on Camp Aguinaldo during the 1989 coup attempt, said that the military would not move against Ms Arroyo without a "credible and acceptable" alterna-

"Once there's a clear alternative, the soldiers will move even without a leader," Ouerubin said in that interview.



QUERUBIN: The soldiers clamored for an explanation of the "Helio Gard" tapes.

But last Friday, Querubin apparently had changed his mind. With Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, commander of the Pirst Scout Rangers Regiment (FSRR), Querubin went to APP Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga to inform him of their plan to join the people's march at Edsa on Sat-

Lim and Querubin, however, were held in custody by their respective superiors and in-

vestigated for possible violations of the Arti-

Lim, a 1978 graduate of the US Military Academy at West Point, and Querubin, a 1979 graduate of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA), were both involved in the 1989 coup, the most serious attempt to oust a President.

Lim sed the mutinous Scout Rangers that overran the Maketi commercial district, while Querubin led the rebel Marines that attacked Gare 1 of Camp Aguinaldo, site of the bloodiest battle during the weeklong coup that nearly toppled President Corazon

Querubin, then a captain, was among the dead at the Quarino Hospital in Quezon City. But a woman doctor, examining the bodies for identification, pulled off his PMA ring and noticed his finger twitched.

Querubin was pulled out of the pile of bodies and nursed back to life at the V Luna Hospital. Several months later, he escaped with the help of a woman doctor.

In 1995, Querubin was granted amnesty and went back to the Marines While assigned in Lanso in 1999, Querubin fought a group of Moro rehels where he was awarded the Medal of Valor for

showing exemplary courage. In 2002, Querubin led a Marine team that encountered Abu Snyyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya in the seas off Zamboanga del Norte. Sabaya was reported killed but his body was never found.

MMDA to launch roadwork safety program

By Tarra V. Quismundo

TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF both Metro motorists and roadwork laborers, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) plans to launch the Roadwork Discipline Program next month.

"This program is simed at promoring safety in all roadwork (project) sites ... to prevent them from being unsightly, so that they would serve as an encouraging model. There are already existing guidelines, but they have not been impremented. This time, the

MMDA will be strictly enforcing them," MMDA Chair Bayani Pernando told the inquirer yesterday in a phone interview

Pernando said the safety guidelines will be implemented in all roadwork projects being undertaken in the metropolis, and will cover both public and private construction firms, including the Department of Public Works and

Program part of MMDA's 'Metro Gwapo'

The program's launching is in

line with the agency's overall makeover program for the metropolis Gwapo.*

MMDA Traffic Engineering Center chief Ramon Ona said Perpando saw the need for the program after observing the chaotic condition at the work sites of most Metro road projects.

"You would see unsightly fences, workers sleeping on the roads, even barracks obstructing the roadway. Sometimes, the workers' barracks are even left at the [job site] like they were

[shanties]," Pernando said.

"Work sites should always be in order and uniform safety provisions should always be followed,

Ona, who was tasked by Pernando to lay down the detailed guidelines, said the Roadwork Discipline Program will cover all safety aspects in roadwork sites.

Orderly work sites a must

The workers must be strictly in uniform ... in standard color so that they can easily be recogaized. There should also be

work site must not be in disarray." Ona said in an interview

Safety signs should also be standardized, and barricades or fences must always be installed first before roadwork can begin, he pointed out. To ensure compliance with the program, a safety engineer must be present at the site during work hours, Ona said

We are preparing the details [of the program]. We'll start soon, we're just giving [contractors] time to adjust. They have been told that they should in-

housekeeping, which means the clude in their pricing all the safety requirements" before applying for a roadwork permit with the MMDA, Fernando said.

All roadwork projects in Metro Manile must have a go-signa. from the MMDA, as the agency has the power to grant or reject applications for excavation or digging permits.

To ensure computance, Fernando said the agency will bolster its site inspection efforts once the program takes effect. The MMDA may revoke the roadwork permits of violators, he added.

RPs First Choice



A GROUP of Girl Scouts from Quezon City display their skills during the Girl Scouts of the Philippines grand reunion held last week in Novaliches.

Girl Scouts have grand time at grand reunion

By Tony Maghirang Contributor

ONCE A GIRL SCOUT, ALWAYS A GIRL SCOUT

The motto of the scouting movement echoed all throughout the day-long Balik Girl Scout of the Philippines (GSP) grand reumon held last Saturday at the Concepcion R. Gonzales National Training Center in Novaliches, Quezon City.

Some 400 former and current GSP members, their ages ranging from 16 to 80, came from all over the country-from the llocos region up north, to Davao down south-to astend the gathering.

The Girl Scout Promise

The event capped the 65th anniversary relebration of the founding of the GSP movement. A thanksgiving Mass started the day, followed by a reaffirmation of their promise "to do my duty to God and my country... and



BALIK-GIRL Scouts president Dr Amelita Go is optimistic that the movement will be able to encourage young girls to get involved in scouting.

to live by the Girl Scout Law."

A series of life-affirming teners, the Girl Scout Law is a guide to help members of the movement lead responsible lives as grownups, and mitiate the next generation of young girls into the scouting way of life.

Fun-filled day

During the grand reunion day, the scouts ment their most of their time attending seven skills workshops. Sessions in easily writing, cooking and singing were done before tunchtime followed by beadwork, herbal gardening, painting and dancing.

Dancing was the liveliest session with participants warming up through tango and presenting to the general assembly a bossterous version of the Big Brother dance routine, ending with a long line of swaying dancers.

The budding painters produced motley images from abstract to still life. Only three Girl Scouts participated in the essay writing work shop and each one won cash prizes donated Friends of the Girl Scouts, a group of distinguished former members.

Declining interest in scouting

Batik-GSP president Amelita Go, however, lamented the apparent decline in interest in the movement among young girls. She said this may be due to various activities offered in schools and the fact that most parents, especially those in impoverished areas, are not keen on shelling out P35 in annual GSP does.

The GSP chief also pointed out that a pending bill in Congress seeking the unification of the Girl and Boy Scouts under a generic Scouts organization could spell the end of government financial support to the GSP and possibly the movement itself

Still, Go is upbeat about the future. She said, "We (Balik Girl Scouts) are volunteers here. This is really payback time for all the good things scouting has provided to us. There is no compensation for having given us the courage, support and the right formative values for success. We hope we can still reach out to young girls about the real benefits of being a Girl Scout."

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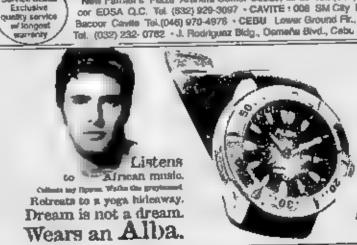
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Suspect killed in Rizal shootout

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

A SUSPECTED DRUG PUSHER WAS KILLED in a shootout with policemen in Taytay, Riza! et around midnight Saturday.

The police also arrested the suspect's co-

hort, a former policeman. Felix Vergas, public information officer of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Team (CIDT) in Rizal which conducted the operation, identified the suspect who was killed as Christopher Chavez.

Chavez, he added, had been hiding from authorities for almost two years after warrants for his arrest were issued in 2004. The suspers was facing drug and illegal possession of firearms charges

His cohort, former policeman Pedro Bracamonte, was also facing arrest on charges of illegal possession of firearms.

Vargas said CiDT operatives went to Barangay San Juan in Taytay shortly before mid-

rught Saturday after receiving information that the two men were in the area, on board a blue Kia Pride sedan.

When operatives flagged the vehicle down at a police checkpoint, Bracamonte stepped

The policemen gave chase, firing at the ficeing suspects as Chavez, who was in the passenger sear, fired back, Vargas said.

When policemen caught up with the suspects after 20 minutes, they found Chavez dead, his body bearing several several gunshot wounds. The windshield on his side of the car was shattered.

Bracamonte, on the other hand, was unhurt. In a report, the operatives said they recovered a sachet of suspected shabu from him.

The operatives also said they recovered seven sachets of dried marijuana leaves, three glass pipes, a .45 caliber handgun and a magazine loaded with slx live ammunition inside

Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

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(In exact order)

NBI to talk to stampede victims

By Margaux C. Ortiz

AROUND 200 VICTIMS AND WITNESSes to the "Wowowee" stampede are expected to appear before the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) today in connection with the ongoing probe into the Feb. 4 incident at the PhilSports Arena that killed 71 people

NBI Nat ona. Capital Region executive officer Ferdinand Lavin said around 10 agents will take the complete statements of the victims, who will be accompanied by officials of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC).

amenable to a question and answer method," Lavin told reporters ut an interview, adding that it will take them the whole day to firush the task.

We will also ask them clarificatory questions if they have prepared affi-dayits with them." he added.

Unl ke the ABS-CBN officials who will be questioned at the NBI conference room, the victims will gather at the bureau's gymnasium at around 9

The NBI had earlier issued subpoenas to network officers Rene Luspo.

"We will ask the victims if they are - vice president and security head; Rey Cayabyab, assistant location manager; Harold James Nueva, associate producer; Owen Garcia, segment producer, Marilou Almaden, production manager and business unit head; Morly Nueva, executive producer-manager, and a stul unidentified location manag-

> The ABS-CBN officers are scheduled to give their statements at 10 a.m. to-

VACC founding chair Dante Jimenez said the victims' statements will be "part and parcel of the evidence they

would use in taking the appropriate action against those found culpable for the Feb. 4 stampede."

Jimenez also said he will present the organization's final report on the stamnede today.

"I will read it in front of the victims at the NBI gymnasium," he said, adding that the report will include new observations on the stampede and the people recommended for indictment

Jimenez added, "The stampede victims feel bad because it seems they bave been forgotten after the Southern Leyre landslide took place last week



STATE OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY The country may be in an abnormal situation, according to Michael Defensor, President Macapagal-Arroyo's chief of staff, but for this woman and her son on an early morning stroll a few meters away from Malacanang Palace, life goes on.

Pass card to solve truckers' woes?

By Nancy C. Carvajal

PASS CARDS MAY BE ISSUED STARTING next month to truckers to help address the problems they face Illegal checkpoints, ex-

tortion and hijacking.

The issuance of pass cards is a control system which would reduce extortion through it. egal checkpoints and hijacking," said Supt. Rafaei Santiago, head of the Northern Police District Anti-Hijacking Task Force.

The use of pass cards will initially be copiemented in Metro Manda in line with the Philippine National Police's campaign against hijacking.

Under the system, the truckers will be required to present their pass card at ad fixed checkpoints (also called control points) which will be set up by the task force in major thoroughfares in Metro Manua

Ali pass cards, Santiago said, will contain a control number issued at the first control point It should also indicate the address of the potice district, contact number (including he cell phone number of a unit member), and the date when the control number was is-

Other information include the truck's origin, desination, description of cargo, routes to be taken, name of operator and contact number, name of driver and signature, the names of other passengers on board, type of vehicle and the place number.

Sanuago said truck drivers must carry their pass card at all times. Each time they go through a checkpoint, they must present it to policemen who will note down in the card the time the truck passed through the control point. The entries should be vandated by the signature of the checkpoint's team leader above his name

"With this kind of information, poucemen would be discouraged from extorting money from truckers because they could easily be identified," Santiago explained.

Should the control officer at a checkpoint find something wrong in the entries, he can hold the truck pending immediate verification, he added.

In the event that hijackers get hold of the pass card and the cargo truck, Santiago said that "if the policeman is good he could easily spot a bogus from the legitimate card or compare the driver's photo and name on his license with the entries in the pass card."

METROBRIEFS

Fire

FIRE struck 10 houses in Pasay City on Saturday. leaving 22 families homeless and destroying P2 million worth of property. The police said no one was reported hurt in the fire which began at 9 a.m. in a boarding house owned by Anseimo Aguillar on H. Domingo Street corner Park Avenue. It then spread to other houses in the neighborhood before it was finally put out at noon, said Senior Insp. Junto Masiano Quoting witnesses, Meslang said the fire was triggered by a gas leak. But Insp. Lea Antiso said they have yet to establish the real cause of the blaze. Josefyn R. Uy

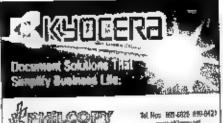
Inmates have fun EVEN for just a brief moment, the 782 detainess

at the Makati City uall forgot their problems as they cheered and rooted for their fellow immates who competed in the annual search for the prison's Mr and Ms Valentine held on Thursday We organized this to ease their boredom, and so that somehow, they would forget that they are detained here," said Jail Officer 3 William Bautista, chief of the immates' Wellare and Development Link at the prison facility. The annual search which is funded by the Makati Social Wellare Department, is part of the city fall a activity calendar which includes a sports lestive every summer, ratigious activities during the Lenten season, a Maytiower Festiva: and special holiday parties. Tarra V. Quismundo



E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres



Juvic stands up to Frankie

Brand-new pro triumphs in sudden death, bags P1.2M purse

By Ernesto A. Gonzales

STA. ROSA, LAGUNA—THE amateur star is now a moneymaking machine.

Tested by no less than the country's top parbuster, Juvic Pagunsan didn't flinch, turning back Frankie Miñoza in a sudden-death playoff yesterday to capture the rich The Country Club Invitational championship here.

The win was worth P1.2 million for the 27year-old Pagunsan, who was playing in only his second tournament since turning pro early last month after hurdling the Asian Tour qualifying in

The breakthrough victory came on the same daunting windswept course where he capped an outstanding amateur career by bagging two gold medals for the country in the Southeast Asian Games last December.

More importantly, it showed Miñoza's succes-

sor has arrived. Although he got into the last two rounds only when tournament organizer Ricky Razon relaxed the rules on the 36-hole survivors, Miñoza proved the decision was justified by coming with

in four holes of winning The 46-year-old ace from Dei Monte, Bukidnon, went on to fire a second straight two-underpar 68-the day's best score and the only player to fire back-to-back under-par rounds-to finish 72 holes with a seven-over 287 total.

Pagunsan, six up on France at the start of the day, bogeyed four straight holes from the ninth, but matched reg alation in the last six. He secured the playoff with a long two-putt par for a closing 74.

The two returned to the par-4 18th to settle the issue and it was Miñoza, who blinked, hitting a "flyer" with a 7 iron that disappeared in the lake at the back of the green.

Pagunsan's 8-iron approach rolled into the right trap beside the take and Miñoza kept the suspense when his chip after a drop nearly found the hole before stopping some eight feet away.

Juvic then blasted to within three feet, but Frankie made the putt coming back for bogey to maintain pressure.

Pagunsan would not be denied, however, as he calmly sank the purt for par and the small gallery on the 18th erupted with giee.

Minoza congratutated then hugged Pagunsan, who responded by raising the right hand of his rival and tering the crowd: "My bass.

Pagunsan, with his wife cradling their steeping 3-year-old daughter LJ at the clubhouse, later said it was an honor to face the country's No. 1 player in a playoff.

"Manato o matalo, sabi ko maka-playoff ka lang st Frankie tama na sa akin (Win or lose, just playing off with Frankie was enough for me," said Pagunsan.

Frankie said the victary will poost the confidence of Juvic, who won only \$1,400 in his pro debut at the Pak-Istan Open early this month.

Actually Miñoza, picked who P600,000 from the P4 million total pot, held the solo lead with his third birdle for the day



JUYIC Pagunsan blasts out of the trap guarding the playoff hole. JESS YUSON

on the 13th to go three under

But he bit into a fairway trap on the 16th and gave the stroke back. He then missed a seven-foot birdje putt on the short par-3 17th.

Mars Pucing winner of the Omega Open last month, burdied the 18th to seize third place alone at 289 with a final 70

Ramil Bisera and Artemio Muzakama, who also put the squeeze on Pagunsan early in the round, faded on the back nine to finish ded for fourth with Gerald Rosales at 290.

Miñoza and defending champion Jerome De

lariante finished tied at the 36-hote cutoff mank of 151 with seven others. Instead of choosing only two players to complete the original 16-man cast for the last two rounds, Razon gave all those in the tie the green light to advance.

Pasig River champ Page A26



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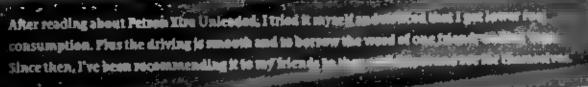
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CHSTINA UNALI<u>VIA, OFFICE MANAGER</u>



A COM

PBA All-Filipino conference too tough to call tioned in the same breath as Basangay Ginebra and - Enrico Villanueva, Larry Ponacier and Paolo Bu-

By Francis Ochoa

IN LINING UP THE PAVORITES FOR THE coming PBA All-Filipino Cup, you don't have to look back to the time Barangay Ginebra won the tournament to earn the tag defending champion. Just glance at the recent Piesta Conference.

While the Kings, and the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals continue to be the traditional favorites in the conference—the two, after all, battled it out for the crown last season—three other teams have disturbed the rankings with their performance in the previous tournament.

Red Bull, Purefoods and Air21, which fireshed 1-2-3 in the Fiesta Conference, are now being men-

Talk 'N Text, especially with the way the three teams beefed up their rostest during the break.

I think we've a better team right now," said Red Bull coach Yeng Guiso, who steered his squad to the title against the Pereloods Chunkee Giants. "Our confidence level is high since we're able to prove that we can compete against the best."

The Bulls even got stronger, at least with their local ruster. Red Bull acquired rebounding workhorse Rich Alvarez from Alaska, which de clossed a logism at the small forward spot by unloading the former Ateneo star in exchange for a pair of first-rounders in the next two years.

Alvarez thus remites with Ateneo teammates

gia. The four were vital cogs in the Blue Eagles' 2002 varsity championship.

"He's worth giving up our first picks in the 2006 and 2007 drafts," said Guaio.

With Alvarez on board, the Bulls are brisnmang with optimism.

We now have a chance to go for a double championship and we'll surely go for it," said team manager Tony Chua.

The Express added height and mobility, while also trimming the excesses of their roster. Air21 dealt away bullstrong forward John Perriols to the Phone Pals for mobile big man Mark Telan. The Express also unloaded Wesley Gonzales and

Homer Se to San Miguel and Purefoods respec-

After Air21's third place finish, coach Bo Perasol said there's nothing to go for his team but up.

"Anything less than a Finals sunt would be a setback," said the young mentor. "We won't be content with just a respectable finish anymore. I keep reiling the players we should now set our

With rookie Jondan Salvador decommissioned by an anterior cruciate ligament tear, Purefoods bulked up its frontline by acquiring the 6-foot-5 Se from the Express and giving up a second-round pick for the coming draft. The Giants also signed Eugene Tejada.

Negros booters battle back, dethrone NCR

By Cedell P. Tupas, PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY-VETERAN ZIGGY TONOG always comes up big when he plays against a team bannered by the Philippine Army

The 33-year-old defender proved this again yesterday as he spearheaded Negros Occidental's come-from-behind 2-1 triumph over Army-laced National Capital Region for the PFF-National Men's Open crown at the sun-baked flodo Sports

Tonog struck the equalizer—a left-footed voliey off Jason Panhay's teasing lob from the left in the 23rd munute-and was the piliar of strength of an undersized defensive line in the second half as Negros foiled NCR's "three-pear" bid.

Diminutive striker Arme Pasinabo, who was later named the tournament's Most Valuable Player, knocked in the game-winner, latching on a pass from Michael Benedicto, before slotting the ball past NCR keeper Eduardo Sacapaño from close range in the 74th minute.

Pasinabo also played the hero's role in Negros' 1-0 nipping of Zamboenga and 2-1 victory over North Cotabato in the elimination round.

There's always a motivation in every game,

but I guess there must be something about playing against Army that brings out the best in me," said Tonog, who claimed his first National Open crown at the age of 18, also at the expense of Army.

Battle-weazy and plagued with injuries, Negree, bannered by players from the University of St. La Salle, was given little chance against the more experienced NCR squad after losing striker Floriano Pastlan late in the first half and medicider EJ Serios 22 minutes into the final frame.

But Negros coach Freddie Lazarito saw no need to push the panic button. "The good thing about this team is that it has players who can be effective in multiple positions," he said.

Earlier, Team Biscocho Haus-Iloño drew two goals each from Ruben Doctora and Kenley Delgado to crush North Cotabato, 4-1, for third place in this tournament organized by the Iloilo Pootball Association in enoperation with Gov. Niel Tupas and Mayor Jerry Trehas and backed by Red Ribbon Bakeshop, 2Go and Petron.

Majority of the individual awards also went to Negros with Joel Balki-Allo selected as the best defender and Panhay named top midfielder. NCR's ian Araneta, who scored eight goals in the tournament but was hardly a factor in the finals. was the hands-down choice for best surker.



A NEGROS player celebrates his team's come-from-behind victory over the defending champion NCR.

Montaña noses out **Pacquiao** dribblers

ILIGAN CITY-RANDY PANERIO SPLIT HIS charities with two seconds reft as Montaña Pawnshop-Davao pipped PacMan-General Santos, 79-78, in overtime Saturday at the start of the Mindanao Visayas Basketball Association (MVBA) tournament at the full-packed Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology Gym

Montaña guard Ryan Abanes had earlier hit a triple to even the count at 78-all, with 30 seconds to go, but PacMan-General Santos flubbed its next possession.

Panerio then drew a foul from Dondon Tadena and sank his first free throw, missing the second. Montaña's Mark Legarde sent the game into

overtime with a lay-up with five ticks to go, 70-70. In the main game of the tournament backed by ML Kwarta Padala, Panasonic and Nature's Spring Drinking Water, host thigan City dominated the game from start to finish to thwart Pryce Pharma-Misamis Oriental, 91-88.

Boxing hero Manny Pacquiao was in the first five of his very own PacMen-General Santos squad, but it was Montaña forward Mark Bonifato who stored the league's first two points.

As part of the opening rites, Pacquiao pumped in 14 points as he teamed up with Mayor Lawrence Cruz and the fligan Executives downed MVBA chair Gov. Oscar S. Moreno and the Misamis Oriental Executives in an exhibition game, 56-52.

Sabal tops Pasig River marathon in style



final third of the Philippine Marathon for the Pasig River and won pulling away yesterday.

Sabal shadowed early pace-serter Robert Mjoruge Wambagu of Kenya in the first 10 kilometers before charging ahead at the approach to Nagtahan Bridge in Sta. Mesa, Martila

He crossed the finish line at The Fort in Global City, Taguig, in a new record time of two hours, 26 minutes and 13 seconds and pocketed the

and 16 seconds later by defending champion en's race in 36.36.

CRESENCIANO SABAL POURED IT ON IN THE Bernardo Desamito (2:30.29). Desamito, who won last year's race in 2:39.33, took home the

P50,000 second prize Armyman Memerto Corpuz finished third in 2:32.24, followed by Regelio Samuento (2:35.28) and Rodolfo Tacadino (2:36.02).

Southeast Asian Games veterar Jhoan Banayag topped the women's race in 2:02.27 and woe 975,000. Baguio's Flor de Carreon-Cachero followed her home in 2:09.03.

Rene Herrera ruled the men's 10K Sabal was followed home exactly four minutes while Mercedita Manapol dominated the worn-

Wambegu, who learned about the race on the internet timee days ago, lost his luggage while changing flights for Manila. He completed the race in pairs of running shorts and shoes borrowed from researcher Cesar Villacer.

The Kenyan eventually wound up in 10th place, but not after giving his Filipino rivals a tough fight in the first 10 km, and despite arriving in Manila barely an hour before the marathon.

The 24-year-old Wambagu took off with a burst of speed at the starting line in front of Manila Cathedral and led Sabal and Jujet de Asis as they crossed Jones Bridge, 3 km. auto the race.

Juvic stands ... From page A25

287-L Papunsan 71-71-71-74 (35-36) P1.2 milion (wor on liest hole of playoff; F. Milhoza 77-74-68-68 (33-35) P610,000 299 M. Pucay 72-74-73-70 (36-34) P390,000 299--- G. Rosaks 70-77-70-73 (39-34); R. Bissra 66-75-72-75 (37-38); A. Muidlami 72-74 (S7-37); C. Casas (E)-75-71-77 (40-37); C. Villaroman 72-76-71-73 (34-39) P116333.33 298 A Lacouta 73-76-73-71 (34-37) P90.000 294—J. Delarerte 75-75-69-75 (38-37) P60.000 295—D. Zaque 72-79-74-70 (37-32); M. Dizon 74-76-70-75 (39-38) P67,500 each 295-C 1arO 72-73-79-72 (35-37); E Salvador 77-74-71-74 (35-39); R. Sasuli 74-79-70-78 (36-40) PP55-500 each 297--- R. Snaugo 70-77-74-76 (38-38) P45,000-299 - Play Pagunsan 75-76-74-74 (38-38) P40,000 300---A Out 71-79-76-74 (36-38) P35,000

5K winner puts Milo Palawan champs in shade

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY -Ruben Samuya end Maricris Laipan topped the centerpiete 21k event of the 30th National Milo Marathon here yesterday, but 11-year-old Jila dela Rosa stole the show with her stunning victory in the 5K event at the Mendoza Park

The 33-year-old Samuya led from start to finish to pocket the P10,000 top purse and qualify to the 42K national finals slated Dec. 10 in Metro Manila.

Samuya timed one hour, 17 minutes and 25 seconds in beating runner-up Marco Laipen (1.17:51). Third placer was Billy Garcia (1:18:19), Laipan and Garcia also made it to the national finals.

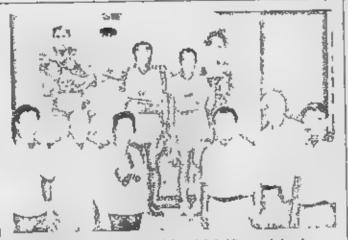
Marieria Laipan, an 18-year-old Education student at Palawan State University, led two other

teenage qualifiers to this year's fipals with a time of 1:53:00.

Finishing second and third, respectively, to Laipan, who claimed her first Milo leg tide, were 19year-old May Ann Regalia (2:02:00) and 18-year-old Mary Grace Tabangay (2:10:57).

"May men limang buwan la ding pinaghandaan ang Milo Marathon (I prepared for the race for five months)," said the jobless Samuya, who also captured a leg due for the first time.

While Samuya and Laipen won. virtually unchallenged in the 21K races of the annual foot race held in pastnership with Bayview Park Hotel-Mania, Adidas, Cebu Pacific and Powerbar, a Grade 6 pupil from the Mauricio Reynoso Jr. Memorial High School drew the loudest cheers from the Palawenos.



WINNERS Ruben Samuya (fourth from left, holding trophy) and Marieris Laipan, with (from left) Nestle Phils. distributor sales specialist Audie Rafanan, Palawan Chinese Chamber of Commerce head Agustin Go, Palassan Chamber of Commerce president Virginia Gapoz, former PCC president Atty. Vic Tan, Rotary Club assistant district governor Senimy Alarcon and Milo Sports Events Executive Pat God-ong.

dies 3K race, De la Rosa surprised her more senior rivals by copping the wamen's 5K with a time of 22. minutes, two seconds.

"Hindi las po alern laung rassean ang mga kalaban ka, basta turnakbo no long po alto () can without knowing where my rivals were)," said dela Rosa, whose 15-year-old

sister, Ira, placed fifth in the race. Dela Rosa's nearest pursuers

Young enough to join the Kid-were second placer Ronalyn Magaso (23.36) and Cherry Ann Magbanua (23.54).

Rolan Omada ruled the men's 5K run on his first attempt with a clocking of 17:41

Felix Magbanua followed Ornada home in 18:09, with Hermie Remandez third in 18.15.

Puerto Princesa Mayor Edward Hagedom fired the starting gun that flagged off the 4,800 runners.

Million Dollar rules 1st Road to Triple Crown leg

By Musong R. Castillo

at the Sta. Ana Park.

MILLION DOLLAR HAD JUST enough lack left down the stretch under JB Hernandez last right to hold off longshot King's Dominson and rule the first leg of the Philracom Road to the Triple Crown series

The three-year-old chestrut colt numed up the heat in the backstretch, passed sprinter Karma, and then best King's Dominion by half a length to book the biggest win of his career.

The win was worth P600,000 for owner Nap Chua, who tapped Hernandez to guide the third pick Milbon Dollar after Fernando Raquel opted to ride Manile's Smile.

"We know we had a chance of Crown series.

winning," Chua said, "We prepared Million Douar hard because he was peaking and showed us signs of reaching his potential."

Sound of Silence won out in a photo finish over Manila's Gern for thard spot, worth P125,000 for owner Hermie Esguerra. Ed Moreno won P225,000 for King's Domin ion's runner-up firests.

The win was also the second stakes victory in two days for Hernandez, who also steered Triple Crown hope Juggernaut to an over powering performance in the PCSO Freedom Cup on Saturday

Million Dollar's impressive victong clocked at 1:42.8 (24'-24-25'28) over the mile, has made the colt one of the chargers to watch in the Triple

SPORTSWATCH

UP Vanguard Commanders Cup golf slated

THE CAMPAIGN to drum up interest in the reserved officers training Corps (ROTC) gets a big boost when the UP Vanguard stages a fund-raising golf tournament on Thursday at the Ayata Greenfield Golf and Leisure Club in Laguna, Catled the UP Vanguard National Commitmers Cup, the 18-hole event will raise funds for the reformulation of the academic computers of the RDTC, the improvement of facitates of the DMST complexes well as scholarship grants. The UP Vanguard Inc., the alumni organization of the LIP ROTC Corps of Officers, has drawn support. From big companies. Royal Capital Securities Corp. is the major sponsor while Turf Company/Club Car, Euromotors Corp., Josef Home Décor Industrial Improvement Certair and CRCt General Insurance Corp. are hole sponsors. Half hole backers are No Fear, Camp John Hay Development, Corp., Alexander's Wear, Levi's Strauss Phil., Inc. and Air 21/Corporate Air. A Club Car, a kinetic Moped 5000 bloyde, a

Jacuzzi and P50,000 are among the hole-in-one prizes Greenwood 5-cocker kicks off in Makati

IT WILL be a fight to the finish among sessoned cookinghters when the "Greenwood 5-Cock Darby" blasis off today at the Maicasi Colliseum, with 8-Meg Darby Ace as main backer. Newspaper publisher Jake Macasent, the derby host, has fitvited his follow members from PCCA and PCAP, as well as breaders from Setangas and Laguna to compete. For inquiries, call 896-3545 or 895-8475.

Record junior badminton tourney field seen

ORGANIZERS ARE ANTICEPATING A RECORD field seeing action in the JVC Open Juntors Badminton Championships which will lock off ks third season on March 25-26 at SM Megamall.

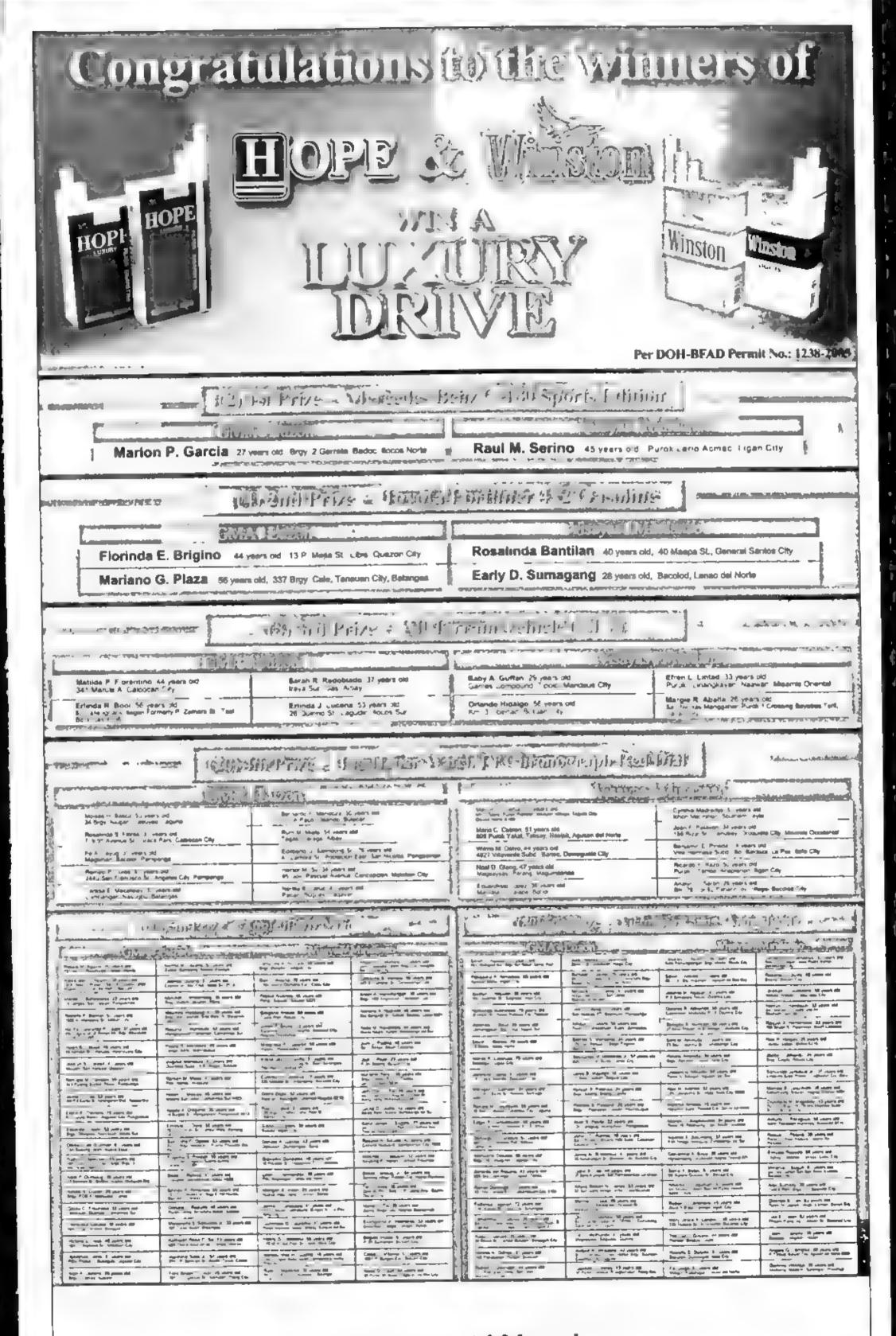
The series, stated at SM malls across the country, has lured the country's finest young shuttlers with thousands more signifying their interest to join, according to the organizing IMG.

Events on tap are the 10-under, 12-under and ... JVC badminton event but also trekwondo and 14-under divisions with the singles winners in the 12-under play receiving P100,000 worth of college educational plans from Pioneer Life.

The organizers will hold a series of qualifiers from March 21 to 24 at PowerSmash. JVC has also renewed as partnership with the

wishi as part of the electronic firm's amuel summer sports program.

Deadline for the free registration is March 15. For enquiries, call 894-2995, 892-9866, 725-2568 or text 0917-8050702, 0917-8050601 or 0917-5328970. Log on to www.jvcbadminton.com or SM chain of mails, which will host not only the ernail at jvebacknimmo@houmail.com.



Government Warning: Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health. SPORTS

Dallas still hot at home Love brings drama Jun B basketball czar? Ves, Why Not? According to retired Col. Buddy Andrada, a veteran Philippine Olympic Committee and tennis official, Jun Bernardino, a former Philip pine Basketball Association Jun B basketball czar? CLEAN LIVING Manolo R. Inigo Manolo R. Inigo Manolo R. Inigo Manolo R. Inigo Control Manolo R. Inigo Manol

DALLAS-DIRK NOWTFZKI SANK an 18-footer with one second left in overtime to complete a frantic comeback for the Dallas Mavericks over the Toronto Raptors on Saturday

Nowitzki had 32 points for the Mays, who charged back from a 24 point deficit in the second half to record a 115-113 wm, their franchise-record 14th consecutive home-court victory.

"We've been down before," Nowitzki told reporters after the game. "With the shooters we have, any thing is possible."

Jason Terry scored 27 points to help Dallas to its second largest corneback victory in franchise history. The Mavericks came from 25 down to defeat Denver in 1994. Reuters

COMPLETE NEA RESULTS: Newariose 99, Atlanta 89: Washington 110, New York 89; Philadelphia 108, Chicago C2; Marri 115, Seattle 106; San Antonio 92, Golden State 75; New Orleans 100, July 95, Phoenib 136, Char-

SHARK NUDGE GEAR Steel & Poly rubber reinforced

MARK ROOF CADOY

CARLSBAD, CALIFORNIA—DAVIS LOVE III RE turned to the Match Play Championship final for the second time in three years, riding the momentum of a dramatic 18th-hole eagle in the quarterfinals Saturday into the title match.

Love hoted out for eagle from 111 yards on the 18th hole to beat Padraig Harrington in the quarterfinals 1-up Sanurday morning, then buried Zach Johnson in the afternoon with six birdies on his way to a 4-and-2 victory.

Love will play the 36-hole championship match against Geoff Ogilvy of Australia, who won his fourth straight match in extra holes in the quarterfinals, then had an easy time in beating Torn Lebonan in the semifinals, 4 and 3.

Love reached the semifinals in 2000 before he was beaten by Figer Woods. He reached the final two years ago, then lost again to Woods in a match marred by a heckler who kept saying "No Love" as Woods was pulling away. Woods was elimmated from this year's tournament on Friday.

"it's always better not to run up against the world No. 1," Love said. "But Geoff Ogilvy is playing great. I'm not wishing Tiger was here; I'd love to play him again,

Ogilvy budied the last hole in the quarterfinals to go overtime with David Howell of England, then made a 20-foot bardie on the 19th hole to set a record in the Accenture Match Play Champaonship with his fourth consecutive victory that went extra

He best Lehman on the 15th green with his best golf of the week, although Ogilvy goes into the championship match baying already played 95 holes at La Costa Resort—the most of any finalist in the eight-year history.

There's someone on my side this week," Ogilvy said. Tve dodged a few bullets." Love shot 68 in the morn-

Greis won his third

biathion gold medal of

Large piloted the Ger-

many 1 entry to victory

Saturday, pulting Ger-

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count in the Winter

in the four-man bobsled

Dlympics at \$1-8 lead-

ing 29 overall. The Unit-

ed States was sitting in

second place with nine

gold - 25 overall. Aus-

tria's shiers were enjoy-

ing themselves Saturday

on the stopes, with Ben-

parrin Raich leading an

these games and Andre

ing and was 6 under through 16 holes when he finished off Johnson. In the 85 holes he has played in five rounds, he has only been behind on

He fell quickly behind Johnson, pulled even with a 12-foot burdle at No. 4, then took control on the par-5 eighth. Johnson hit into the water while trying to lay up, but took his drop and stuck the next shot mto 5 feet Love rolled in a 12-foot badie to win the hole, then hit a 5-iron from the fairway bunker into 25 feet on the ninth and made that to take a 2-up lead noto the back nine. AP



Germany pulls away in Winter Olympics





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commissioner, is not only highly qualified, but-more importantly—acceptable to most people, a unifying factor that could very well end the unsettling situation in the local basketball scene

"Bernardino's proven track record will speak for itself. In my view, he's an ideal choice and the most logical person to bead the country's new and unified baskerball association that is seeking to regain membership in the Fiba Basketba.! (International Federation)," said Andrada

Fiba suspended the Phiappines after the POC general assembly expelled the Fibarecognized Basketball Association of the Philippines last year. But Fiba said the Philippines could still regain its membership if and when the five basketball stakeholders (PBA, PBL, UAAR NCAA and former Sen. Joey Lina, president of the Basketball Association of the Philippines) form another cage body and elect a new set of officers on or before March 31, this year. As a result of the BAP expulsion, the Philippine Basketball Federation was formed and, subsequently, applied for POC recognition, which was given overwhelmingly.

Speaking as a longtime POC member, Andrada said .t would be best for the POC general assembly not to "rock the boat" unnecessarily by removing the PBF from its roster of members, a stand he shares with outspoken Go Teng Kok of the track and field association, saying it is the POC's regal and moral responsibility to honor its

A true-blue sportsman, Jun Bernardino played vars ty basketball for the University

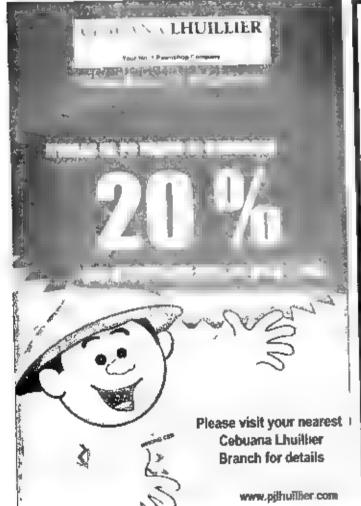
distinguished accomplishment as a commissioner of the professional Philippine Basketball Association. At 45. Bernardino became the fifth PBA commissioner in 1994 after working for 12 years under four commissioners before him. Leo Pri eto, Mariano Yenko, Rudy Salud and Rey Marquez.

He quit his job as PBA commissioner for health reasons a few years back. But being a certified worker, Bernardino simply would not walk away from sports. Most recently, he raunched the widely forlowed Shakey's Women's Voleyball Circuit Now pushing 58, Bernardino still has an endless passion for sports, spending time with close friends and associates among them, Moying Martelino, Nic Jorge and Rhea Navarro.

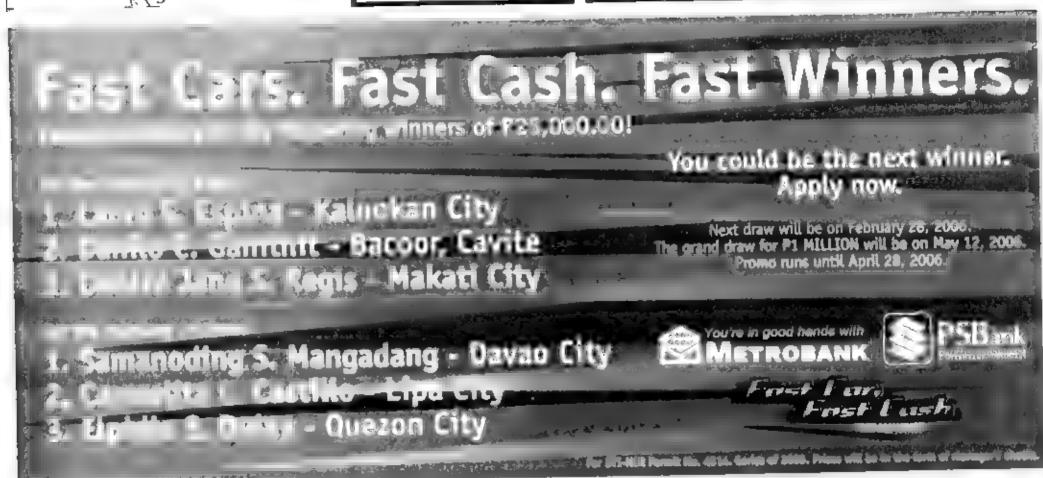
CHEERS (a continuation). Sports patrons Hermie Esguerra and Putch Puyat again dominated the Philippine horse racing scene

The owner of super horse Wind Blown, Esguerra recently won his fourth straight "Horse Owner of the Year" award while Puyat, the "godfather" of Philippine biliards, was cited as "Horse Breeder of the Year" by the Philippine Thoroughbred Owners and Organization Breeders Philtobo president Noncy presented the Niles awards.

What more can I say? Everything has been said about Red Buil's amazing victory in the last San Mig Coffee-PBA Fiesta Conference, but allow me to give credit, too, to softspoken Andy Jao, who was nstrumental in bring ng over prolific import James Penny







Editor Emmie G. Velarde Taut us your feedback: Inquirer ant name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

An alternative to the MMFF

'Digital is the future,' says Cinemalaya competition director Laurice Guillen

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

THE CINEMALAYA Philippine Independent Film Festival was envisioned as an alternative to the Metro Manila Film Festival, acto Laurice cording Guillen, competition director.

the Film Development Council of the Philippines, participated in the MMFF as a member of the

screening committee

A post festival evaluation with other participants from the PDCP resulted in a resolution, she said. Instead of trying to change the MMFF, we decided to put up the kind of festival we wanted, [one] that values quality and the independent spirit."

She teamed up with Antonio "Tonyboy" Copuangeo of the Philippine Multi-Media Systems inc., Nestor Jardin of the Cultura. In 2003, Guillen, then chair of Center of the Ph lippines and Nicanor Tiongson of the University of the Philippines.

AN ALTERNATIVE AZ-2



ROUNDUP



Man of the Year

CAMBRIDGE, MASsachusetts—Richard Gere donned a pair of glittering gold dancing pumps to earn his pudding pot and crown Friday as Harvard's Hasty Pudding Man of the Year

He also had to put on a blond wig and a white bra decorated

with red baubles. Richard Gere is one of those actors that's been around for so iong that it's kind of only natural that we would give him this kind of award," said Peter Dodd, vice president of rIP Theatricals, which honors performers for their lasting contributions.

Eccemerics

LOS ANGELES-Hollywood stars Jessica Lange and Drew bave Barrymore signed on to play two eccentric relatives of former US first lady Jacqueline Kennedy who lived in a flea-mfested home.

Lange and Barrymore will play a mother and daughter team -Big Edie and Little Edie Bouvier Beaiein "Grey Gardens," Daily Variety said Wednesday.

The women-the aunt and cousin of the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassisspent years living in squalor on their New York estate

The movie, to be written and directed by Michael Sucsy, is based on the 1976 "Grey documentary Gardens" by David and Albert Maysles. AFP

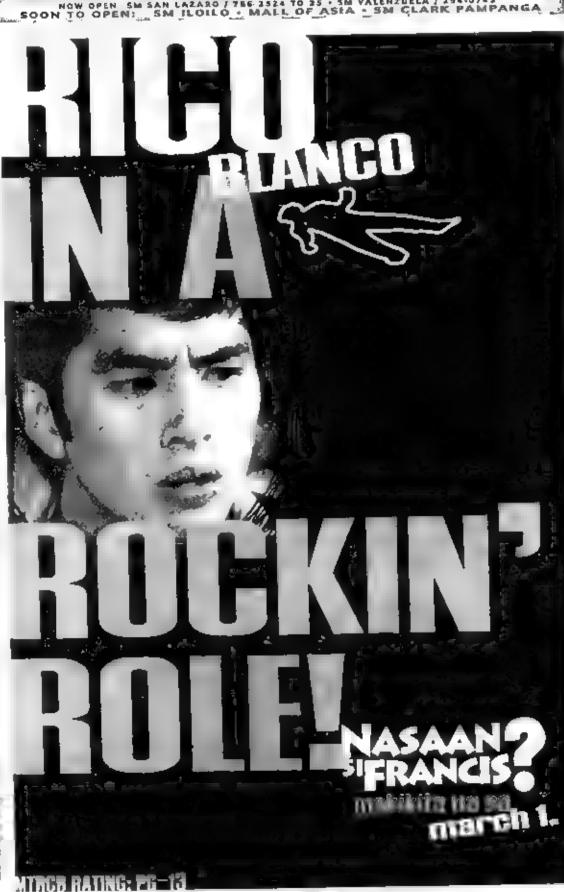
C4P Records

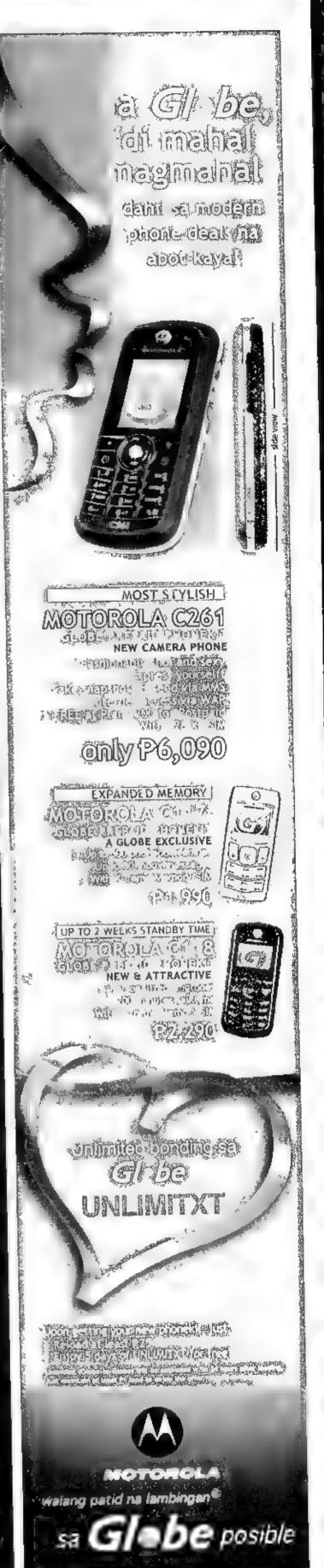
THE CENTER FOR Pop Music Philippines will launch a new recording company C4R on March I at the Peta Theater Center, Surrey Side Drive, Rooriguez Ave., Quezon

City. C4P president Butch Albarracin said the company's first record THE RESERVED dia lance in the PERSONAL PROPERTY. aged 9 to 11-Carlyn Ocampo, Christelle Peig, Jasmin Salvo, Migs Raymundo and

Randet, Panganiban,







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An alternative to the MMFF

"Merging our concepts wasn't difficult because we all just wanted to encourage the independent digital film movement in the coun-

try," Guillen recounted. As conceptualized, Ginema aya would be free of commercial considerations, she said.

cember play date, so they wouldn't have to produce "the usual fantasy, children's and formula films exhibited during the holidays." Linking with the CCP and UP further ensured freedom

To start with, they decided not to go for a De-

"As venues, CCP and UP are free from censorship," Guillen pointed out. "As such, Cinemalaya films wouldn't need to go through the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board."

Mainstream support

The organizers don't shun mainstream sup-port, however. For the first Ginemaaya last year, Guillen recruited Seiko producer Robbie Tan "because he's the best hands on manager I've ever worked with "

As chair of the monitoring committee, Tan helped participating filmmakers finalize casting and secure permits and copyright permission for Tagalog songs in their soundtracks.

Instead of charging P30,000 per song, for instance, Tan's friends in Filscap, Universal and Ivory Records required only P1,500 per

Supportive talent managers, like Manny Valera and Ed Instrelle, allowed their actors to be cast in Cinemataya movies. Guillen said this was because they had seen the project's

"Digital is the future," she said They were investing in the future.

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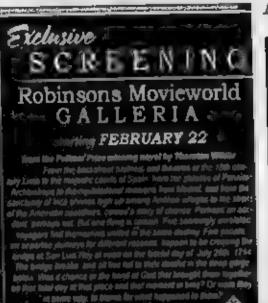
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MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT





mostumovo

From Dominique Cimafranca (dominique.cimafranca@gmail.com)

I am not a regular TV viewer preferring instead to read books or surf the Net, but on occasion I do flip through the channels to see what's going on. Yesterday, I had the misfortune of watching & truly execrable scene of deliberate humi, abon incompatible with basic human decency.

A young women as punishment for some trivia, mfraction, was ordered to break a raw egg on her own face. This she did. Repeatedly. The others around her watched in smug satisfaction

This scene, if you don't already know, was played out on GMA's "Extra Challenge: Ang Tagapag-Mana." The program s a serial offender to morals and sensibiliry. The scene played out yesterday represents a new low in TV history.

Programs like this contribute to the degradation of our morals and the corruption of our psy-



MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2006

CPHEE MEUTERS TUCKE

RODINSONS Movieworld GALLERIA METRO EAST IMLIS MIRCO Reting... R-13 MIRCO Reting... R-13

Girls stand out on 'AI'

AS OF LAST WEDNESDAY, "AMERICAN IDOL" was down to its 24 finalists, 12 men and 12

Right of the bat, it was clear that the female bets were more promising than their male counterparts.

In fact, all 12 female finalists have something special going for them. Most of them are beautiful, and each female singer has a unique vocal quality all her own.

However, some of them are even better than the already exceptiona lot Based on

their recent solo performances in the finals, we're placing our bets for ultimate victory on either Lisa Tucker or Katharine McPhee.

Nestor U Torre

At only 16. Lisa is the youngest singer in the competition. But she's floored both jurors and viewers with her combination of great singing voice, suitry good looks and poise in performance—very anistial for somebody her age

For her part, Katharine impresses with her own beauty, exceptional voice, musical intelligence and vivacious commitment to performance.

She sings not just with her voice, but also with her total being, and has musical stardom written all over her future.

On Friday, four finalists—two male, two female—were eliminated. Both Liz and Katharine survived!

What about the guys? Alas, some of them are clearly headed for elimination. We hope that Fi.-Am bet "Sway" Penala will last longer than most—not just because he's Pinoy, but also because he's the only Asian talent who's made it to the singing tilt's finals the year.

It's likely, however, that this year's "American Idol" wil, be a female singer—the female bets are simply so much more promising than

Instructively, "American Idol" is now the most popular reality show on US television. This is an impressive achievement, because many other reality programs have been biting the dust this year.

What accounts for "Al's" exceptional popularity" its plus points include the fact that its search for promising singers is so thorough—literally tens of thousands of talents and non-triester advisor for the rile each year.

and non-talents audition for the tilt each year.

That has generated a "grassroots" interest and empa.hetic involvement that makes many people want to keep track of the competition's progress from week to week.

Those people also like the fact that they decide which talents make it to the "final-final" stage of the competition.

It imbues them with a star-making power that gives them an added surge of "ownership" of the program that makes it a specially emphatic viewing experience for them.

This year, an added viewership boost is the tilt's exceptionally promising batch of female final sts. The competition is extra keen, and that helps explain why the show's ratings are at an all-time high

'Idol' clashes with Olympics

NEW YORK—"AMERICAN IDOE DID A NUMber again on the Olympics in terms of viewers Thursday.

With choices that included the culmination of the women's figure-skating competition at the Olympics and three of television's most popular nonfiction shows, an estimated 11 million more people watched TV than normally would on a Thursday hight, according to preliminary Nielsen Media Research estimates.

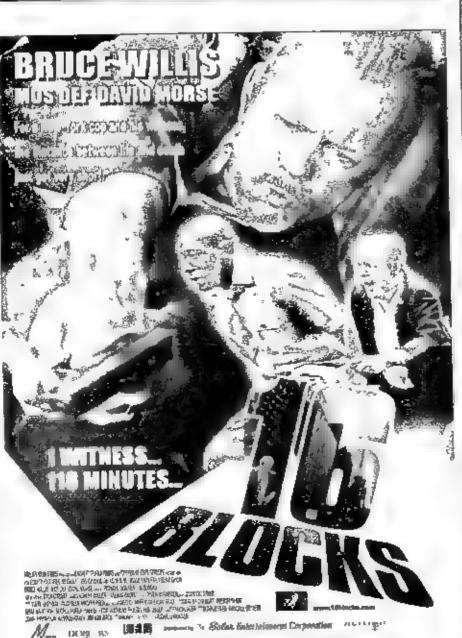
An est mated 25.7 m.ll.on people watched the Olympics in prime time, the biggest audience for one night of the Turin games so far. Women's figure skating is the most popular winter Olympics event among TV viewers.

While no TV executive would disnuss something that draws that many viewers, it still remains that a once-every-four-years event had a smaller audience than a typical "American Idol" episode.

A special Thursday edition of "idol" was seen by 23.4 million people—compared to 17.7 million for the Olympics, Nielsen said.

After "Idol" went off the air, the audience improved for the Olympics.





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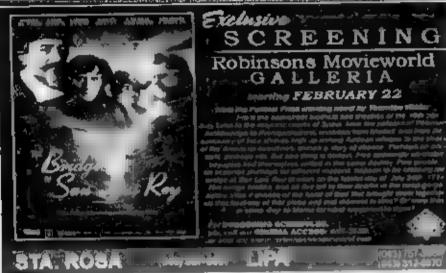
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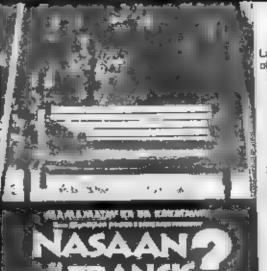
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MEMOIRS OF GEISHA







'Broke' jokes

LOS ANGELES-It began as a simple love story between two gay cowboys that movie critics wondered whether America would embrace.

In three short months, "Brokeback Mountain" not only became an Oscar front-runner but auso found its way into US popular culture, inspiring parodies, joker and cartoons across the spectrum from positics to pop music.

Seen the "Kick-Mountain" back poster on the corruption scandal sweeping the US Congress? Laughed at David Letterman's "Top 10 Signs You're a Gay Cowboy" (10) "Your saddle is Versace")? Heard Willie Nelson's *Cowboys are Frequently, Secretly Fund of Each Other"?

Actually seen the movie? Maybe not.

Astonished

"I wish I knew how to quit you" might have become the coolest phrase to throw around during a lovers' tiff but with a mere \$72 milaon US box-office take, "Brokeback" is hardly a blockbuster.

"Many, many more people have told a Brokeback Mountain' joke than have seen the movie it's one of those things that has really tran-scended itself and gotten way more attention than its box office indicates," said culture expert Robert Thompson, director of the Center for the Study of Popular Television.

As an astunished Jake Gyilenhaal said this week after winming a British Film Academy award for Best Supporting Actor, "Who would have thought this would happen?

Irresistible

Those outside the gay community have responded to the movie's universalove theme. But its mehe in popular culture owes much to the fact that the story turns the 1950s and Western-8 showcase for the American manly cowboy--or head

"[it] opens up the Roodgates for telling jakes," said Thomp-"Comedians SOIL. can't resist because we all know what a cowboy movie is and this challenges it."

Two of the sharts worn by the men in the movie sold for \$100,000 on the Internet this week. The gay buyer called them "the ruby suppers of our time," 10ferring to the most famous stem worn by Judy Garland in "The Wigard of Oz."

TV hit "American idol" got in on the act with its own "Bro-Mountain kenote spoof.

The New Yorker magazine's cartoonists gave readers Watch Your Back Mountain" this week The two protagonists were accident-prone hunter and Vice President Dick Cheney and President George Jill Ser-W. Bush. jeant, Renters

ENTERTAINMENT

they shoot out of their hands?

Phis, the show presumes that you've seen all the previous incarnations and can therefore follow the storyline. If you haven't, all you're liable to pick up is that peace has reigned in the kingdom for several years, but there are signs that a war is brewing with new enemies. Creator and director Mark Reyes is obviously going for the epic serial

Lots of eye candy but short on narrative

quality of the "Lord Of The Rings" and "Star Wars" movies, but it was easy to catch up with what you mused in those films by buying or renting the videos. Because "Encancadia," airs weeknights from Monday to Priday, it's easy to get lost in the

nurrative when you've missed an episode or two. Both "Encantadia" and "Hongkong Flight 143" generously provide televiewers with lots of free eye candy. If only they were as generous with the

quality of the scripts!



PAULEEN Luna and Mark Het

Images at the expense of words

From page AZ-6

James Blanco in a romance set in Hong Kong. Being a late afternoon show, "Flight 143" apparently has a smaller budget than "Encantadia," and a smaller cast as well. The sound is inconsistent, even mandible at times, and the show seems to have been shot with available light. But when you have Disneyland and a captivating city twinkling behind your actors, how important is it to add another layer of gloss via artificiat light?

Produced and directed by Kitchie Benedicto, "Hongkong Flight 143" is serviceable enough for less demanding afternoon viewing, but its occa-sional use of Looney Tane-ish sound effects makes you wonder if the show's creators have a specific target audience in mind, or if they're in fact targetting everybody. The time slot is one for very young children and housewives, but the casting seems to

be for teens and twentysomethings.
The script is paper thin. Nothing remarkable or original happens. The plot seems to exist only to get its characters to visit as many tourist spots as possible. After two episodes, the three main characters who presumably will become a love triangle, haven't even met. If the objective is to make viewers want to visit Hong Kong, then it's success-

Bigger, better

"Encamadia," on the other hand, has a thicker script and a much bigger cast. And though it is shot only in and around Metro Manile, it's way ahead of "Flight 143" in terms of visual impact.

Compared to the first season of "Encantadia"

and its sequel, "Etheria," this new incarnation has more expansive sets and more polished visual effects. Expectedly so, since "Encantadia" is one of

the jewels of GMA's prime time programming.

But alas, the show also suffers from the same gaya-gaya syndrome that plagued the fast show, which had a look and tone that borrowed heavily from the "Lord Of The Rings."

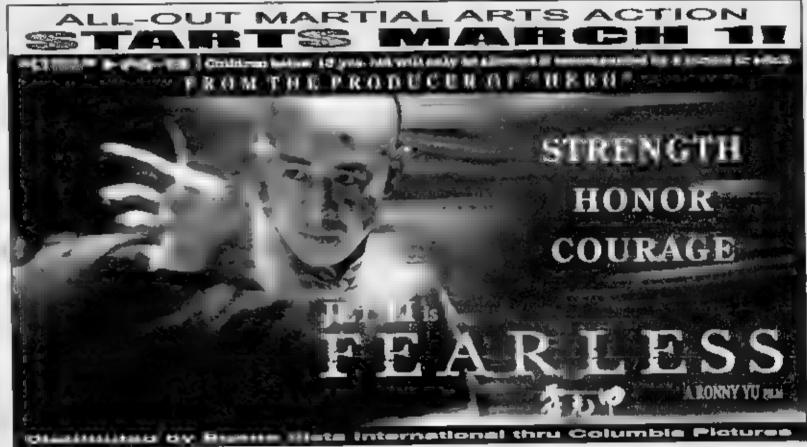
The current peg seems to be "The Chrondes Of Namia. The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardsobe."

Lapses in logic mar some of the fight scenes. For instance, why must the heromes go through the motions of laboriously fighting off attackers with heavy swords, when they can knock them out with the powerful balls of light and energy that





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ENTERTAINMENT

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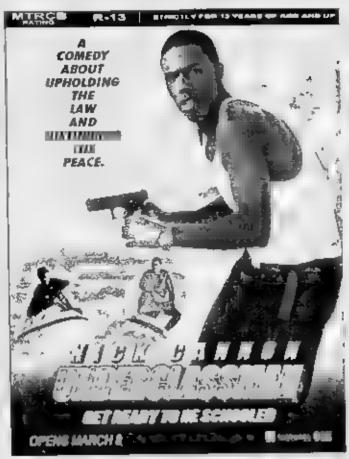
By Paul Daxa, Contributor

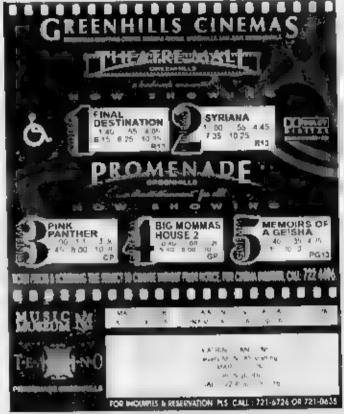
IT'S VERY RASHIONABLE TO BLAME THE perceived near-death of the local movie industry on video piracy, but maybe some of the "blame" should go to our TV shows, whose production. values have improved tremendously in recent

Case in point, two new shows which premiered on GMA Network last Monday—the late aftermoon love story "Hongkong Flight 143" and prime time's "Encartadia: Pag-lbig Hanggang Wakas," a sequel to the groundbreaking telefantosya. Both shows give viewers plenty to gawk at aside from the stars. "Flight 143" runs daily for only two weeks, and stars young stam Mark Herras, Pauleen Lama,



RY 27, 2006





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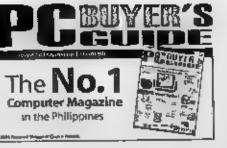
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MONDAY, **FEBRUARY 27, 2006** PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph Websita: www.inq7money.net

Editor Raul O. Marcelo Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma



Banks' bad loans shrink to 8-year low

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BAD LOAN RATIO of Philippine commer cial banks shrunk to an eight year low of 8.51 percent as of end-2005 from 12.72 percent a loaded soured assets in bulk using the Special cent expansion in total ioan port

SPV law extension to trim soured assets further

Purpose Vehicle mode The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported that the end-December non-performing loan (NPL) ratio further eased from 8.76 percent in end-November

The decline for the month of year ago as banks un- December aione was made possibie by the 2.7 percent slowdown in NPLs and a marginal 0.2 per-

As banks moved to trim down problem loans, total NPLs went down to P1598 billion from P164-25 billion in end November while total loan portfouo inched up to P1.88 milion from P1.87

The banking system's NPL ratio has fallen to a single-digit level in 2005 for the first time since the

Asian currency turmoil.

The sector's NPL ratio peaked at 18.81 percent in October 2001 but started to ease sharply starting last year as banks availed themselves of the SPV incentives. The SPV framework, which expired last April, allowed banks to clean up about P95 billion in bad

The SPV Law waived some of

the taxes and reduced fees usually collected in the sale or transfer of assets. It warved the documentaty stamp tax, capital gains tax and expanded value-added tax reduced the registra-

con/transfer fees by 50 percent For the whole of 2005, the commercial banking system unloaded P67 2 billion in NPLs to bring down its problem loan bur-

den to P159 8 billion from P227 button in end 2004. Real and other properties owned and acquired (Ropoas) also went down to P194.7 billion from P210 billion.

As such, total non-performing assets-referring to the NPLs and Ropoas combined—fell to P344.96 billion in end-2005 from

P430 billion a year ago Bankers are lobbying in Congress to revive the SPV Law to speed up the sale of more bad assets. The BSP expects the banking

Customs to issue memo on used-vehicles import ban

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS IS SET TO ISSUE a memorandum banning the entry of imported used motor vehicles into the country, a move that will favor domestic car manufacturers who have complained of stiff competition brought by cheap second-hand and imported

The issuance of the Customs memorandum order, to be addressed to customs officials at the various ports nationwide, will be in observance of a recent Supreme Court decision upholding the power of the government to contro, the entry of imports into the country,

The Supreme Court last week said in a decision that it was not unconstitutional for Malacanang to have Issued in December 2002 EO 156, which banned the importation of used

Figures that matter in our nation's life

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More and more Filipinos leave RP

CLOSE to a million Filipinos left last year, an increase of five percent compared to 2004. Choice destinations were, Saudi Arabia, Hong Kong

(lo thousands)

The executive order was placed on injunction following an earlier Court of Appeals' decision that said at was unconstitutional.

Gaudencio Mendoza Jr., undersecretary of the Department of Finance, which has oversight functions over the BOC, said Finance and Customs officials would meet today to discuss the details of the memorandum order.

That should put the judicial ruling in corrers perspective," he told reporters in an in-

A memorandum order addressed to concerned government officials was necessary to implement executive orders and court deci-

Mendoza said the memorandum order | would clarify to customs officials that the ban on the importation of used vehicles, as also stated by the Supreme Court, would not cover

Ayala keen on **Napocor**

AYALA CORP HAS expressed interest in joining the privatizanon of the governmenr's megawatt Tiwi-Makban geothermal assers in Albay, Laguna Batangas provinces, sources tord the INCURRENT.

They said Ayala submitted a letter of Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM)

business banking. development potential sector.

Aside from the Tiwi-Makban power assets, Ayala was earlier looking at the privatization of PNOC **Energy Development** Corp., a subsidiary of Philippine National

vatization has lured the likes of Aboitiz Vencuret, Equity Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Development Corp., and Salcon Power Corp., all of which have existing power sector invest-

The Ayala group



By Bizabeth L. Sanchez

intent to the Power last year, but has yet to decide whether it would pursue a bid for the power assets. Tiwi-Makban complex consists of the 275 megawatt Tiwi power plant in Tiwi, Albay, and the I megawart Makban power facility in Laguna and Batangas provinces.

Ayala, whose core property telecommunications, announced last year it had formed Michigan Power Inc., a special purpose company that will explore investments in the power

PNOC-EDC's pri-

has no power busi-

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STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITÉ INDEX

Cautious trading seen

CAUTION WILL PREVAIL THIS week as investors continue to watch political events unfurl. analysts said

Last week, the main index last 32.2 points or 1 5 percent amid rumors of a thwarted military coup and President Macapagai-Arroyo's move to declare the country under a state of emergency.

'Until we sae the political

(See stock nurfus report on Page 87) situation normalize in the following days, volatility will be heightened," said Paul Joseph Garcia, chial lovestment officer at fund manager ING Investment Management. BPI Trade, in its weekly note to clients, said weighing on the market

was sailing on Ayala Corp San Miguel B shares, First Holdings, SM Investments, Banco de Oro, Meraico. Jollibee and Equitable PCI Bank. investors will closely watch the developments over the weekend to

see if the destabilization attempts will intensify. Other concerns would be the possible rise in US interest rates, which may pul pressure on iocal interest rates, and the volutile oil prices due to concerns in Nigeria

"Most investors will likely adopt a wait-and-see attitude until the po-tilical situation normalizes," BPI Trade said. But 2TradeAsla.com said seasoned players would likely saize the

opportunity to buy favorite stocks.

Include sectors that provide good hedges in times of political encertainities. Trade cautiously," 2TradeAsia wrote in its weekly advisory Elisabeth L. Sanches

Privatizing infrastructure

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AMONG ITS MOST IMMEDIATE neighbors, the Philippines stands out as having the lowest government capital expenditures as a share of total capital expendi-

In 2000-2002, the share averaged less than 9 percent for the Philippines, against 16.2 percent for Thailand, 36 percent for Malaysia, and 43 percent for Indonesia. The consequence of this is easily evident to anyone traveling around the region, our infrastructure facilities are largely inferior to that of our neighbors.

AS LOW AS A CARREST

culties. Our only recourse, then, if we are to close the infrastructure gap with our neighbors is to intensify the effort of harnessing private sector participation in the provision of public infras-BOT pioneer We prided ourselves in the

the product of the first of the party of the product of the party of t

early 1990s in having pioneered build-operate-transfer (BOT) scheme of infrastructure provision, particularly with the

much improvement in this ratio

for years to come, given govern-

ment's continuing budget diffi-







early passage of the BOT Law.

As the name indicates, the scheme involves having a private firm build the infrastructure facility, operate it for a defined period of time in order to recover its investments and make a reasonable profit, and eventually transfer ownership of the facility to the government.

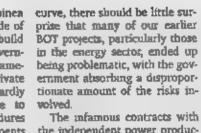
Other variants like the build lease-transfer (BLT), build-ownoperate (BOO) and others soon

In a sense, we became "guinea" in this innovative mode of harnessing private funds to build public facilities. As our government drew up the legal framework for these public-private partnerships, there was hardly any experience elsewhere to draw from in setting procedures contracting arrangements on things like evaluation processes, sharing of risks, and so

In fact, other countries looked to our experience and learned from our lessons in drawing up their own BOT legal frame-

First-mover disadvantage

Having been the pioneer who to face a steep learning



The infamous contracts with the independent power producers (IPPs) are a case in point.

The issues raised on the privatization of water supply, and the "Prateo fiasco" on the still-mothballed international airport terminal also illustrate the weak nesses in the earlier procedural guidelines and policy framework surrounding the privatization of infrastructure.

We have learned numerous lessons from our early experiences with public-private partperships (PPPs) in infrastructure, and we are drawing from these lessons as efforts continue to improve our legal and policy framework on PPPs.

After public consultations in the past year toward revising the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the BOT Law, work is now underway toward amending the law itself to make it responsive to current needs and circumstances.

Balancing objectives

The basic challenge in this work is the inherent tension between our two basic objectives in amending the BOT Law that of promoting more PPPs (Le. BOT and similar investments), and that of safeguarding public interest as these projects are put in place and operated.

We need to attract more of these investments, but we also need to avoid the pitfalls of our past experience with PPPs.

Attracting more BOT investments entails three things.

First, proponents would like to see a more streamined application, evaluation and approval

process, which is currently seen to be too cumbersome. Second, private investors want an attractive business arrangement, i.e. adequate returns on investment through ampie user fees, tax exemptions, and minimum risks government guarantees. Third, in the aftermath of the Mamla Hotel and Piatco contract reversals, investors want firm assurance that contracts will be enforced and respected.

On the other hand, safeguarding public interest in these deals requires obtaining the infrastructure facility at the least cost and its services at reasonable user fees, and minimizing risks to the government, and conse-

quently, to taxpayers. Ensuring these requires thorough evaluation of the BOT project proposal and caution in designing the contract between government and the private sector partner.

BOT Authority?

A prominent feature of the emerging draft legislation to amend the BOT Law is the establishment of a separate government agency, a proposed BOT Authority that will be attached directly to the Office of the Presi-

As envisaged, the agency will handle the promotion, evaluation and approval of BOT projects. On top of that, it is also proposed to be responsible for regulating the BOT facilities once in operation. But as indicated above, there is an inherent contradiction among these functions, and putting them all under the same body raises major questions at the outset.

Technical as it may sound, amending the BOT Law is a matter of critical importance to us all, and merits ample public discussion and careful deliberation. Questions and comments welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu

Ayala keen on Napocor assets

ness as yet but is exploring all aspects of this sector, including generation and transmission. group is also monitoring developments in the yet-to-be-unplemented wholesale electricity spot market to prepare for the implications of the electricity bourse on its overall business, if it decides to enter the

power industry. Ayata's planned foray into the power sector is backed by sustained profitabiliry, analysis said.

2TradeAsia com

that he expected Ayela growing its net income to P8 9 billion this year from P8 2 billion in 2005, backed by the financial performance of its key subsidiaries. This year, sources

wrote in a report

said Ayala may spend roughly P40 billion for projects of its subsidiaries. Of the total budget, the lion's share will go to mobile phone provider Globe Telecom at Martin Español P13-P18 bill.on and of on ne broker Ayala Land, P16 bil-

Banks' bad loans shrink to 8-year low

system to unload another P100 billion in bad assers once the law is extended, trimming the bad loan ratio to about 7.5 percent.

Meanwhile, the ratio of restructured loans to total loans also dropped to 5.25 percent from 6.87 percent a year ago, but 48.7 percent of these restructured loans had turned

A debt restructuring can cover a whole range of debt concessions-including the stretching out of maturities, lowering of interest rates and, in extreme cases, the conversion of debt into equity-to give the borrower some room to breath and chance to revive its

Analysis said the high level of restructured loans turning bad again meant a lot of corporate borrowers were forced to accept restructuring deals that were not viable after all.

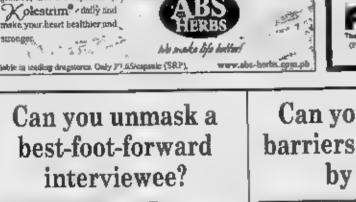
Customs to issue memo on used-vehicles import ban

Subic and other freeports because these are considered outside the Philippines' customs

However, he explained that used vehicle imports may be brought to freeports, but they could not be sold domestically and that they could only be re-exported

Freeports, especially the one in Subic, was used as a point of entry of used second-hand vehicles, many of which were right-hand drives converted to left-hand and then sold

The entry of chesp, second-hand vehicles into the country had been cited as one of the major problems adversely affecting the competitiveness of vehicle manufacturers operat-



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In our quest for excellence, VITRO has not only secured a BS 7799 certification, we've also received our second ISO 9001. As the only IDC in the country to receive these recognitions, VITRO has once again proven its commitment to employing best practices that are at par with international standards.



Our sincerest congratulations to VTTRO Data Center on its successful compliance with BS 7799 information Security Management standard—one of the globally accepted and adhered standards in comprehensive security management system—as certified by TUV Philippines, Inc., one of the world's leading certification bodies.

This is another feather to VITRO's cap after having earlier achieved its second certification for ISO 9001.2000 Quality Management standard, also from TUV.

ViTRO's continuous compilance with iSO 9001 and BS 7799 reflects its firm commitment to employing best practices that are at par with international standards and to helping upgrade the Philippines' ICT industry as the sector gears towards becoming the leading destination for outsourcing services.

By encouraging more IT companies to follow the example of VFTRO, we can help strengthen the Philippines' value proposition in offering the country as a preferred destination for regional and global FF operations consolidation, and as a major provider of quality business process outsourcing and call center services.

Once again, our best wishes for continuing success to YTRO Data Center, and to its owner and operator ePLDT, the ICT arm of the PLDT Group of Companies, as you pursue your thrust to provide the highest level not only of customer satisfaction, but most importantly of service that is conducted within the recognized quality and information management system standards.

Mabuhayi

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It is with pleasure and pride that I congratulate the VITRO Data Center for attaining its first BS 7799 Certification from TUV

This certification is proof of VITRO's unwavering commitment to help in building the country's KT industry, providing world-crass products and services to the Filipino consumer/customer. In particular, a certification in information

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I commend the Management and Staff of VETRO for this momentous achievement, and wish all of you the best in your future endeavors.

MANUEL V PANGILINAN
Chairman of the Board
Phillippine Long Distance Telephone Company



The Commission on Information and Communications
Technology is very much pleased with the news that ePLDT's
VTTRO Chata Center has successfully and satisfactority compiled
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This is a momentous accomplishment for ePLOT as well as the entire ICT Industry in the Philippines. What is significant about this feat is that ePLOT solldlifes its stature in the global economy as a viable, committed and secure service provider of business solutions, principally for the Business Process Outsourcing and Call Center sectors.

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The entire Commission extends its warmest congratulations to ePLDT for this impressive successi

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clients of your dedication to quality and excellence as you employ best practices to ensure the safety of the mission-critical data within VITRO. This remarkable feat also helps us solidify our position in the ICT industry.

We hope that this recognition encourages you to continue improving your facilities and processes, and we look forward to more achievements in the years to come.

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NFOTECH

Editor Leo Magno

Smart to change revenue sharing scheme with 3G

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By Alexander Villafania Contributor

MOBILE TELECOMMUNICATIONS services provider Smart Communica-

tions will make changes in its revenue sharing model with content providers when the company commercializes its 3G services.

Smart made available Its first free 3G video call service last week. The service can be used in certain cities nationwide, a pilot test for Smart's 3G launch, aithough no date has been set for the commercial launch.

Smart's content provisioning and management manager Manny Castillo said in an interview that the carrier is willing to make changes in the 70-30 sharing scheme with con-

SOME of the attractions of 3G are video calling and mobile TV. Will broadcast contant providers get a better deal with operators this time?

tent providers in an effort to lower more established firms to enable the price of 3G services.

Castillo did not give specific details on new revenue sharing schemes, but said that the plan is to get more content providers to work together to create new and more compelling content that will encourage more people to use Smart's 3G

Castillo also stressed that smaller content providers should work with them to churn out more and better

He added that among the new services that could be expected from 3G are streaming music, video conferoncing and mobile TV.

Smart is also planning activities to encourage people to use 3G, one of which is a competition to create short movies using camera-enabled mobile



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industry faces problems with few graduates By Erwin Oliva Contributor

ATENEO DE NAGA UNIVERSITY IS ABOUT to produce 40 animation graduates this year. The university has produced so far 80 animation graduates who have been honed to do actual animation work and production in Philippine and foreign companies.

But the 40 graduates produced by the university represent a miniscule number beside the Philippine enimation industry's needs by 2010. The country needs at least 25,000 new animators in five years if it still wants to remain compeditive, according to the Anima-

tion Council of the Philippines Inc. (Acpt)
Seen as one of the key industries in the country's outsourcing business, the Philippine animation industry has been beset by brain drain for years, steadily losing talents to US based animation houses and outfits.

While outsourcing jobs abound in the country, it has missed opportunities due to dwindling animation talent pool, Acpi executive director Joy Bacon said.

"The 40 graduates produced by Ateneo de Naga University [are] still not enough," Ba-con told infotech.

Acti is now trying to encourag schools to teach animation. Untike De La Salie College of St. Benilde, few schools have heeded the organization's call so far. The college is now offering diploma or short courses on animatton, Bacon said

Areneo de Naga University has also been offering a four-year course on animation, according to Pr. Danilo Isidro, chairperson of Department of Digital Arts and Computer Animation of the College of Computer Studies at the university.

Isidro said that Ateneo de Naga decided several years ago to come up with a four-year course on digital arts and computer animation, as it recognized the need to produce more animators for the industry.

"We responded to the emerging trend," he said, noting that Naga is generally a poor re-gion. "So we hope that this would contribute to our thrust in poverty alleviation."

The university's decision to produce animators has not gone unnoticed. Isidro said that its decision has attracted a Manila based animation house, Geebo Digital, to setup business near the university. Most of the university's graduates end up working in Geebo, Isidro said.

"People had been calling me asking for graduates who can work with them. But I cannot give them anyone because they are all em-proyed by now," Isidro said.

Avoiding e-mail scams

By Jerry Liso

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ments as soon as you receive them. 4. Do not believe risk free or get-rich-quick

programs. 5. Be vigilant and suspecting always.

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BUSINESS

Strong buy

IT DOES NOT MATTER WHETHER you are pro- or anti-GMA, but Friday's unsettling events created stock market opportunities that, assuming that you make the correct calls, you could look to a merry Christmas even before the Hoty Week.

This is not wishful thinking

Except for the bloody coup attempts, the stock market bounced strongly higher right after the country's feckless poultical ehte and the military messiahs take out their frustrations on the streets.

The brokerage firm ATR Kim Eng, in a weekend advisory to as clients, reached the same conclusion. The Phisix was 8 percent higher a week after the January 1987 rebel takeover of the PTV-4 radio TV complex.

Even better, an ecstatic market gained 18 percent a week after Joseph Estrada was ousted in 2001, ATR-Kim Eng noted

Despite the Erap forces having reached the gates of Malacanang on Labor Day 2001, the market bounced 4 percent higher a week after the aborted Edsa III.

And notwithstanding the firepower and fire-breating displayed in the so-

Victor C. Agustin called Oakwood mutiny, the market

eventually rose back 6 percent higher three months after military (mis) adventure.

San Miguel conundrum

COCKTALES

SAN MIGUEL Corp. issued a one-line explanation in answer to a Bloomberg story raising analysis' fears on the cancellation of last Thursday's earnings briefing by the

country's biggest food and

drinks complex Rather than explain why the briefing had been cancelled, San Miguel simply disclosed that It had been postponed to March 3.

According ID grapevine, there is a simple explanation for the delay. With the spate of recent international acquisitions, the San Miguel audit committee is still trying to reconcile the different financial statements and accounting standards of the now much-enlarged regional conglomerate.

The long and the short of it is that the audit committee thinks it can reconcile the reports by March 3, when the San Miguel board meets.

The audit committee is incidentally headed by new Equi-

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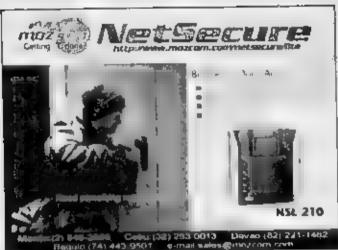
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(Sgd.) EDITA S. BUENO Admenstrator

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This Office reserves the right to reject any or all bids without officing any neason, warry required contract to any budder whose proposal watered by the BAC is the most scharalgoous to line government. The BAC surpose or indemnity the bidders for any expenses or under not proposed to any expenses or surpose or orbital proposed. loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, or does it guarantee that an award will be made

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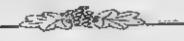


FERRER

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord

on February 23, 2006 She is survived by her loving husband German; children Eymard & Yeyet, Ricci & Sean, Hazel & Tep & Paolo, grandchildren, sisters & relatives request the pious readers to pray for her eternal rest and everlasting

happiness. Her remains lie in state at the Love Chapel, St. John Bosco Parish, Pasay Road, Makati City Interment will be on Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2006 at The Heritage Memorial Park Crematory after 11 AM Mass





Telephone

Contact Person

Email Address

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

1598 M. H. del Pilar cor. Dr. J. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manifa Tel. Nos. 522-00-00; 551-22-00 connecting all departments

INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID for the ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING (AML) PROJECT

The Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) is conducting a two-stage public bidding procedure for the procurement of an AML solution for the AML System Project

The primery purpose of this turn-key project is the acquisition of a fully integrated, "commercial-off-theshelf" AML solution which includes the following components:

Software application, illoances and other anthrare components (DBMS; APIs; connectors; middlewares;

elc.)

Hardware components (Database application, report and all other required servers, disaster recovery servers: disk storage: etc.) Various technical tools

Furthermore, the AML solution provider shall also be responsible for the Extract-Transform-Load (ETL) process,

that is, the extraction of all required data from the different source systems, data transformation and data loading to the target detabase(s). The solution provider shall also be responsible for the following requisite activities:

source to target mapping, data availability and quality essessment, design and development of the ETL routines and system integration testing of the ETL routines. The solution provider has the option to use the Bank's existing ETL tool - Informatica PowerCenter 7.1.2 to tacilitate the ETL process To ensure the highest degree of fit of the AML solution to the Bank's requirements, and to effectively manage change, the project scope blunviae covers all the requisite software customizations, as well as change management activities like change management planning and communication, the review of "As is "processes, business process simplification and improvement, the documentation and training on the "To Be" processes, organizational change assessment, and assistance in the implementation of the required organizational and process changes.

The project must take into account all related implementation activities and process such as systems integration. project management, system development filecycle, change management, technology transfer (training and documentation), and maintenance and support. Likewise, the solution provider is expected to conduct a post-implementation review at least ninety (90) days, but not to exceed one hundred twenty (120) days, after the system has been implemented in Production, to assess the project performance and the attentiveness of the

As per section 5 (p) of IAR-A of RA 9184, the procurement for this Information and Continunications Technology

(ICT) project is considered as one for goods interested parties may secure the Eligibility Requirements, upon aloning of the Confidentiality Agreement, from February 27 to March 10, 2006, during regular office hours (between 8:00 am and 3:00 pm, from

THE SECRETARIAT

+63 2 528-8578 Alan V Bornas

Information Technology - Bids and Awards Committee (IT-BAC) LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES 16th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza M.H. del Pilar comer J. Quintos Streets, Malate, 1004 Marilla, Philippines +63 2 405-7123

Head - Technology Management Group (T-BAC Member ifbac@mail.landbank.com The Letter of Intent, the accomplished Bidder Evaluation Forms (List of Projects and Project Team

Information) and the rest of the Eligibility Requirements must be submitted by March 10, 2006, 3:00 pm, to the alorements must be allowed to participate in the escond stage of this two-stage bidding prodecure Those eligible bidders whose technical tenders meet the minimum required performance standards shall be notified accordingly and may secure the Bidding Documents (e.g. Request for Proposal, etc.) from March 23 to 24, 2006, upon payment of a non-retundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00). For all these qualified parties, the Pre-Bid Conference shall be held on March 28, 2006 (Tuesday), 10:00 em, at the altermentationed

The Approved Budget for the Contract is Thirty Five Million Pesos (PhP35,000,000.00, inclusive of all taxes, which shall be sourced from the funds of LBP LBP reserves the right to waive any formality in the responses to the Eligibility requirements and to this invitation LBP further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declars a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this myttation

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Republic of the Philippines Local Civil Registry Office

(Sgd.) JOSE CARMELO C. NOGRALES Executive Vice President

Chairman, IT-BAC

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION In compliance with Section of R. A. Act No. 1048. Is notice to heartly served to the public liver ANTONIO ID CASTRO PIZARRO

Dan Carlos, Buildner

hereby served to the public that ANTONIO is CAS THO PROMISE the high the Office is persion for change of half netter from ANTHOMY ROMMES, to ANTONIO Iff in the brine certificate of ANTONIO III CASTRO PEZARAO who was born on May 19, 1969 at Sat Chat, Manths and whose parents are Autonio Jr. A. Pizarro and Resurreboldon Castro.

Any person adversally allected by said petition cray file history writen opposition with this Office and lates than,

material desires may be. went to be wen You and my loved ones to (Sgd.) MELISA R. CAVALIDA Monicipal Cwi Registral OWN A BUSINESSE USA PRODUCT (02)3762642 4 44 (PDI - Feb. 27.4 Stands 6, 2006)

More Classified Ads on pages AS, A12, A13, 16, A17 & A18: BITHARIES

Interm Februa

Richard "In my Father's house are the many rooms. I am going there to prepare a place for you. I will come back and take you to be with me that you also be where I am." - John 14:2-4

> Herminia A. (ANG GIOK HUA) has peacefully passed on to eternal life, reunited forever with her spouse, Leonardo Go.

Her loving children. Lionel and Becky: Adip and Bong: Apoy and Peachy-Sette and Mon Marques: grandchildren: John and Lispeth Go, Jean and Dennis Luga, Juyce Go. Jimbo Go. Christine and Jeremy Greenberg. Archie Go, Michael Go, Brian Marques, Mark Marquez, Don Marquez, and great grandchildren: Abby and Angela Go, Diko Luga, Max, Maya and Mimi Greenberg, and all her relatives and friends request the reader to join them in thanking God for the gift of her life, the grace of a peaceful death surrounded by family and for the hope we all have that she now enjoys the gift of eternal

Interment will take place at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina on Tuesday

February 28 after Holy Mass at Don Bosco Chapel (Charity) at 12:15 p.m.

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TOKUSHUKAI MEDICAL CORP., JAPAN'S biggest health care service firm, is not giving up its plan to set up a branch in the Philip-pines, although it is also setting its sights on other locations in the region.

The company had been acousting for a possible site for a 1,000-bed hospital since Sept. 2004.

Tokurimkei initially considered the Manila

Bey reclamation area, but the plan hit a snag as the Philippine Estate Authority said the project could be done only if the company partnered with locals.

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BUSINESS

BDO, LBP keen on funding gov't takeover of Naia-3

By Doris C. Dumlao

RETAIL TYCOON HENRY SY'S BANCO de Oro Universa. Bank and Land Bank of the Philippines have joined a consortium that plans to lend as much as \$600 million to the government for the acquisition of Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3.

Banking sources said the Development Bank of the Philippines-led consortium, which offered the credit facility to the Manila International Airport Airthority, could be further expanded to accommodate interested foreign lenders.

quantities cost-effectively!

buyout, the amount of potential credit facility has also increased. The DBP accordmg to report, was willing to shell out \$300-\$400 million in loans to MIAA.

The bulk of the loan would be used to pay off Nata 3 builder Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Piatco), which was forced out of the build-operate-contract by the Supreme Court in a runng issued in May 2003. In its ruling, the court said the deal was "grossly disadvantageous" to the government

With more banks willing to fund the cash flow from terminal fees but the deal might not be finalized within the first quarter, the sources said.

initial negotiations on the credit facility had started but pricing was now the central issue, the sources said.

Contractor Takenaka Corp. which built the terminal said the consortium that built the terminal had spent \$290 million but Piatco was claiming the expenses amounted to \$650 million.

The government expropriated the Naia 3 facility in December 2003 but These banks were willing to fund has been unable to operate it given a

Archbishop Cruz on mining

ARCHBISHOP OSCAR CRUZ OF DAGUPAN complains of the "poisonous dirt" produced by large-scale mining. He echoes the line of the anti-mining lobby that the use of cyanide (actually sodium cyanide) in large-scale muning threatens life and the environment.

Over a few rounds of beer the other night, i had an emovable that with Nonoy Celera Jr., a practicing metallurgist for the past 35 years, and currently the mill manager of a largescale gold and silver mine in Mindanao. He

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General



explained to me the use of sodium cyanide (NaCN) in large-scare mining.

Sodium cyanide is used only in gold mining. Lafavette in Rapu Rapu is a gold and copper mine; sodium cyanide was used in its operations, but not at Marcopper in Marinduque, which was purely a copper mine

Sodium cyamide is delivered to the mine as flakes or globules in metal drums, in this state, it is highly poisonous. But, in the processing of the gold ore, sodium cyanide is first disso ved in water

Depending on the characteristics of the ore, the proportion is 250 to 500 parts of sodium per cyanide for every one million parts of water This solution is so weak you can wash your hands in it without any il. effects (but, of course, you should not drink it). Yet, the some tion is strong enough to extract as much as 98 percent of the gold from the ore.

The ore is ground into fine dust in the bal. mill. Commercial grade ore contains one gram of gold in every ton, or 1,000 kilos, of ore. The sodium cyanide solution literally eaches the gold out of the ore. All over the world, this is the way gold is extracted from the ore. The process is efficient and safe

After going through the sodium cyanide solution, the dust becomes waste or tailings. The tallings are what Archbishop Cruz calls the "possonous dirt." There is very little poison in the dirt.

The tailings are collected in a pond where the sodrum cyanide, by its deliquescent nature, absorbs moisture from the air and gradually transforms into nonpoisonous carbon. Even if the tailings spill true a river, the dissolution of the sodium cyanide goes on Noney said that, in his 35 years as a practicing

metallurgist, here and abroad, no one has ever been poisoned by sodium cyanide in rarge-scale gold mining. The use of sodarm cyanide follows strict mathematical and chemical formulas designed to attain maximum operational efficiency and utmost safety to life and property.

These formulas have been designed and field-tested by metallurgists chemists, eng. neers, and geologists, who are as God-fearing as any archbishop

Of course, accidents do happen, some of them out of negligence. In an open-pir mine, 200 hundred thousand tons of rock may be moved every day. In an underground mine, you could be digging several knometers deep in the earth. But our highways are far more dangerous than large-scale mines

Sodium cyanide is used in electropiating, fumigating and treating steel. It is used to clean a fishpond of crustaceans before introducing bangus fingerlings. It is used to stun and catch all those colorful fishes you see an an aquarium

Archbishop Cruz cries his heart out for the poor who have been supposedly victimized by targescale mining. If he is willing, I can bring him to a poor community in Camarines Norte

The barrio folk there will tell him how eagerly they are waiting for the jobs that will be opened by a gold and copper mine (now in the exploration stage) that will soon operate in the area Then, I can bring him to the gold and silver mine where Nonoy is the mili manager. There he can chat with 700 barrio fook gainfully employed with generous fringe benefits.

I hear no metals are being mined in Pangasinan I wonder where Archbishop Cruz got

his strong anti-min ng views. May the Holy Spirit fire up Archbishop Cruz to dig deeply into the mining act, the implementing rules, and the Supreme Court decision on the constitutionality of the law, He can ask a sacristan to download these documents from the websites of

the Mines Bureau and the Supreme Court. Then, perhaps, Archbishop Cruz will have his feet planted firmly on the ground and his eyes fixed bravely on the future.

Cocktales

From page B5

phaned daughter of the paper's founding cou-

ple, this we have on good authority. Though theoretically majority-owned by the employees' provident fund, the business daily is controlled, apparently in perpetuity, by the Locsin family.

The paper has lately been hit by key resignations, and even minority owner Hugo Zobel has long been trying to sell the family stake to almost anyone foothardy even to think of making money in a shrinking sector.

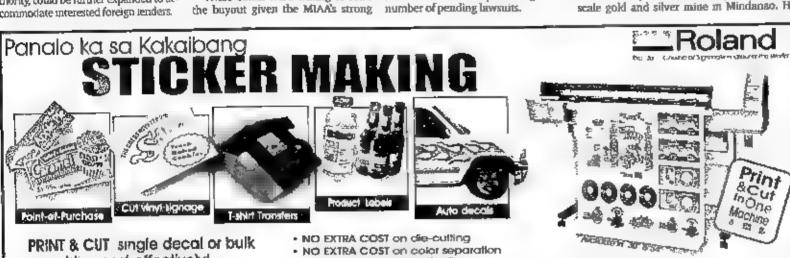
Money-go-round

· CALTEX (Phatppines) Inc. will be known effective March 1 as Chevron Philippines to reflect its US parent company's name. Despite the corporate name change, the gasoline stations and lubricase products will use the "Caltex" brand.

 Megaworld's Andrew Tan is betting that the booming call center moustry will be but by rising real estate rentals in the Ayala area and that is why he is rushing a "competatively priced" call center complex in his McKinley Hills complex in The Fort.

Heard through the grapevine

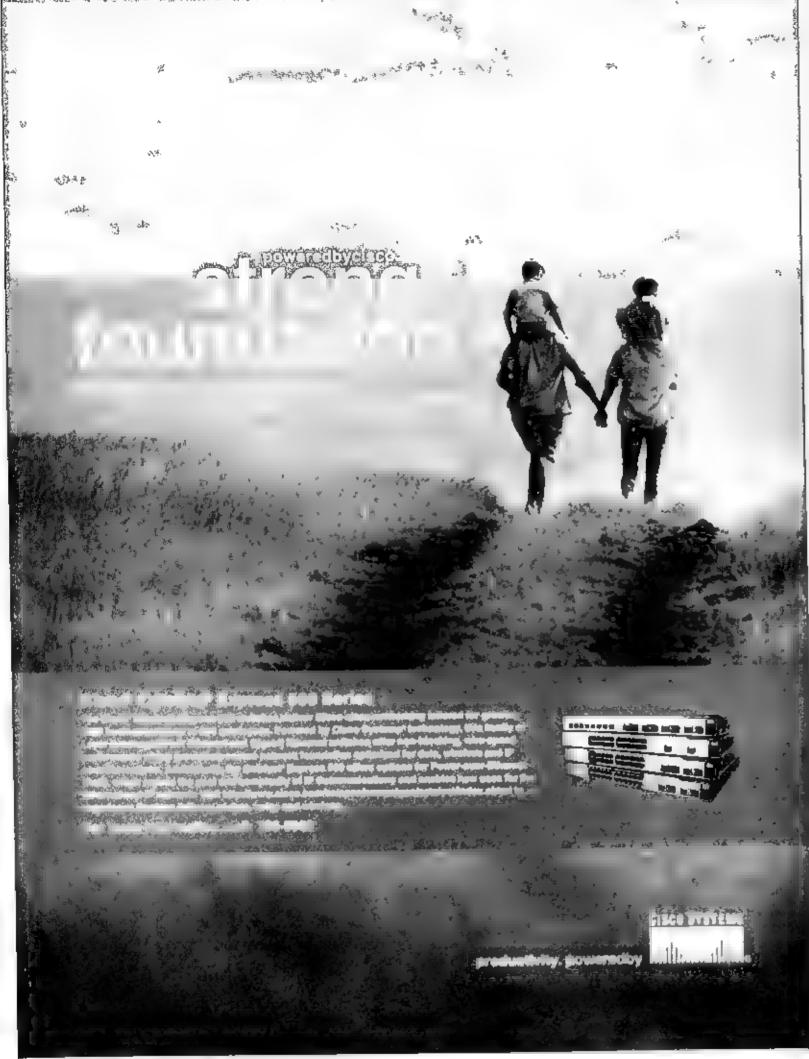
APPER a brief federal induced holiday in Canfornia due to his Las Vegas problem, former Tourism Secretary Vicente Carlos is now battling a casino collection-related case in the Pasay Cay Regional Trial Court. (Email: cockrates_pdi@pidtdsLuer or cocktales_pdt@yahoo.com)



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Abaca export volume jumped by 18% in 2005



Amante Pinzon, 42, fills his cattle-driven cart with minerals he has collected along the coastline of Santo Domingo, Luna, La Union. Pinzon and his 3-year-old son Adrian will then make their way to a nearby town and sell the minerals for P12 a sack.

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE EXPORT VOLUME OF PHILIPPINE ABAca jumped by 18 percent to 22 million metric tons in 2005 as demand for the product throughout Asia significantly grew.

According to the Fiber Industry Development Authority (Fida), this increase also corresponded to a 21-percent growth in export carrings for local abaca pulp manufacturers last year to \$80 million, compared to the \$66 million posted the previ-

Philippine abacs fiber pulp is used for the manufacture of security and currency papers, cigarette filters, meat and tea casings, medical materials, and high-grade non-woven ma-

Fida said that the combined demand in Japan and China grew by 38 percent. The voltime of export to Japan jumped to 5.3 million metric tens, while trade with China rose to 464,000 metric tons.

Exports to North America and Europe also went up by 43 percent and 9.3 percent, respectively.

The Philippines is the only country exporting abaca pulp. It is also the biggest exporter

German auto makers have approved the use of Philippine abacs fiber for the inner and composite panels of their vehicles.

Fida officials said that the new contracts abroad may prove to be the big break the abaca fiber industry has been looking for over the last 15 years.

But exporters are concerned with the dwindling supply of abaca fiber as the industry has yet to recover from the space of diseases that affected the plants.

According to the traders, the government has not enough funds to assist abaca

Last year the country's abaca fiber production increased 2 percent to 494,000 bases. Each bale weighs about 125 kilograms.

There is a growing demand especially for our abaca pulp," said Alberto Fenix Jr., president of NewTech Pulp Inc. "but the local supply has not been sufficient.

Fida Administrator Cecilia Gloria Soriano said production has not hit a high of 1 to 2 million metric tons a year due to the prevalence of diseases.

The government needs to solve this problem with the private sector," Soriano said

Transco improves By Abigaii L. Ho Boracay power services

NATIONAL Transmission Corp. (Transco) has finished laying down the submarine cable necessary to improve power delivery in the tourist paradise of Boracay.

In a statement issued over the weekend, Transco president and chief executive Alan Oruz sand work on the 1.6-kilometer submarine cable was part of the P149-mil-Hon Panay-Boracay interconnection project.

The cable would connect the state firm's Catician cable terminal station with another facility in Manok-Mariok, Boracay

"With more and more rourist facilities nsing in our country's premiere tourist destination, Boracay's power demand will rise steeply in the coming years," Ortiz said. "This is why we are doing all we can to complete critical projects like this to meet the growing demand of businesses in the area."

Also, Transco will put up cable terminal stations in Canclan and Boracay by April.

Under a memorandum of agreement it agned with the Aklan Electric Cooperative (Akelco), Transco would provide the materials and equipment. needed for the construction of two new substations and cable terminal stations.

Axelco will likewise build another substation in Boracay near Transco's cable terminal station.

The Panay Boracay interconnection project is just the first phase of Transco's Small Island Submarine Interconnection Development (Sistd) program.

In this stage of the program, Japanese flrm. Kanematsu Corp. will establish a two-way electricity highway at the nation's western corridon This will complete the lazon-Visayas Transmission Loop.

The next phase of the Sisid program involves the Luzon-Mindoro Interconnection project, followed by the Mindoro-Semirara iand-Panay project, and the Boracay-Tablas-Rombion link. Abigail L. Ho

Gov't to study use of India plant as fuel

IN AN EFFORT TO PURTHER ADvance the use of alternative fuels, a government delegation will visit india to look at its program for Jatrophe, a plant that can be used as a diesel substiture

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said the delegation would study india's Jatropha program to get some insights on how to incorporate the plant to the country's alternative fuels

Found in abundance in India, Jatropha curcas, or tube-tube in Filipino, is already being used there for biodiesel, because of its 37-percent oil

According to the official Website of India's Center for Jarropha Promotion, the plant is drought-resistant and can grow well even in poor soil.

it also grows relatively quickly and lives for 50 years, all that time producing seeds.

The Jatropha plant's seeds have an oil content of 37 percent, which can be combusted as a fuel without being refined. This oil has already passed tests performed on diesel engines.

The state-run Philippine National Oil Co. Energy Development Corp. (PNOC-EDC) has earmarked P1.6 million for the planting of Jatropha in its geothermal reservations.

The Jatropha Propagation Project, undertaken in cooperation with the Darongcogon Producers Cooperative Marketing Association (DPCMA) and D1 Oils Asia Pacific Inc., will determine the agronomic requirements of the Jatropha species in Philippine

The Jatropha plant, will be initially planted on a 5-herrare parcel of land in Kabankalan City, Negros Occidental.

PNOC EDC president and chief executive Paul Aquino had earlier said that PNOC-EDC was very much interested in supporting the Jatropha project as it could provide carbon dioxide-neutral fuel in rural areas and reduce pollution.

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Environmental groups laud House renewable energy report RP seen

By Abigail L Ho

THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY is expected to adopt the Renewable Energy Bill Committee Report.

Environmentalists said this would be the first crucial step in revolutionizing the power sector in the country." According to environmentalist group

World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF), facilitate its passage. the Renewable Energy Bill is "the byproduct of careful research and study by experts in the field of renewable energy sources for over 12 years."

The committee's adoption of the report, which was been scheduled for Feb. 28, is expected to give the bill a much needed push and is seen to belp

The bill aims to provide an institutional framework and infrastructure that will encourage potential navestors to commercially develop the country's indigenous energy resources, including wind, solar, hydro, geothermal, ocean and biomass.

To attract investors to infuse cash into indigenous energy resource develop-

ment, the bill seeks to provide investors with perks such as tax holidays, duty-free importation of machinery and equipment, and exemption from payment of value added and are applied to the control of the control value-added and real property taxes.

the viability of indigenous energy projects.

The bill also aims to rationalize taxes and royalties on imported fixel vis-a-vis those slapped on indegenous fuel to ensure P1.3B from **Asian fund**

By Durit C District

the milarrings will get P13 billion in fresh portfolio investment from the second Asian Bond Fund created by 11 central banks n East Asia and the Pac fic to boost local curency bond markets in the region

Bank of the Philippine Islands executive vice president Adelbert Legasto said the ABF Philippine Bond Index Fund would be saunched within the first quarter.

BPI was appointed by the Executive Meetng of East Asia and Pacific Central Banks to manage the country's anocation

Legasto is optimistic the country's share will increase significantly if the sovereign redit rating would improve.

The share is a function of our credit rating. I we were not downgraded, we would have gotten double that amount," Legasto said in

"If we get an apgrade the fund could increase and if we reach investment grade, you'll probaply see the fund growing to P5 billion," he said

Philippine sovereign debt is still rated by global rating agencies as sub-investment grade. The rating by Moody's Investor Service is the lowest at four notches below investment grade with a negative outlook-a precursor of a possible downgrade Standard & Poor's rating is three notches below and Fitch's two notches below. Both S&P and Pitch recently changed their outlook from "negative" to "stable.

Legasto said the ABF Philippine Bond Fund would be in the form of unit investment trust funds (UTTFs) or pooled funds that would be marked to market. These UTTPs will be invested in government securities

"BPI has already submitted the fund rules, which are now being reviewed by several central banks," he said.

"The Asian Bond Philippine index is solely in pesos and in local government issues," Legasto said, noting that the index had earned about 17 percent last year

The BPI executive said the government's ongoing bond exchange program, that seeks to consolidate government debts into securities with three, five and seven-year matun-nes, would also help boost the trading of government securities

The first ABF worth \$1 billion was invested in US dollar-denominated bonds issued by sovereign and quasi-sovereign issuers in Emeap economies. The ABF2, however, will be invested in local currency-denominated bonds.

The BSP believes ABF2 will play a catalyne rose in promoting new products, improving market infrastructure and minimizing regula-

TVI local unit raises mineral output by 71%

By Christine A. Gaylican

CANADIAN MINING FIRM SUBSIDIARY TVI RE source Development Philippines Inc. said mineral production at its Cabanatuan mines in Zamboanga Peninsula posted a 71-percent increase last

month to 1,200 metric tons from 700 metric tons. TVI Philippines reported this development to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Mines and Geosciences Bureau

The feasibility study on the mining and miling of the sulphide ore body was started following receipt of positive metallurg, cal results from previous lests. TVI's Canatuan project is very much on a roll," said Clifford M. James, CEO of TVI of Canada, in a report

James said TVI commissioned mining experts to help fast-track the company's planned expansion initiatives.

The building of two significant dams by our construction team, under the close supervision of international engineering experts and our manager of environmental protection, was a tremendous achievement under difficult conditions," said James.

The costs of expanding the mine, plant and tailings dam facilities from 250 MT to 800 MT were estimated at \$7.4 million. Actual expenditures amounted to only \$2.4 million.

TVI Pacific Inc., the parent company, is planning to increase its investments in the Canatuan mining project this year to \$10 miltion or about P540 million from the original investment rarget of \$7 million

"We have plans for expansion which will substanzially increase the amount we will spend fro the project annually," said James. TVI also reportedly filed applications for new exploration grounds in the Zamboanga Peninsula.

The company said it remained bullish about the prospects of the local mining sector, especially with the Supreme Court's decision allowing 100-percent foreign ownership of mining concessions in the Philippines

The mining company is also working on the immediate re-activation of its existing preclous metals processing plant, also in Zamboanga del Norte.



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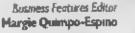
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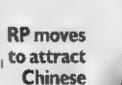
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Growing a business from behind bars 'B2-3

BUSINESS and political leaders find fromy in Malacañang declaring a statu of emergency on the 20th anniversary of the People Power Revolution

By Volt Contreras

THE BUILDINGS OF AYALA AVENUE MAY have grown tafter and sleeker over the last two decades, but the cause for outrage has remained the same on the streets below.

With this simple analogy, officials of the pfluential Makat, Business Club who last year called for the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo joined former President Corazon Aquino and thousands at the country's premier financial hub last Friday in a march marking the 20th anniversary People Power revolt.

The business leaders expressed worries and found irony in Malacahang putting the nation under a state of emergency following its discovery of an alleged coup plot, on the very day Filipinos marked the end of the Marcos dictatorship and the return of

democracy. "The unfortunate thing is that after 20 years you come to think of how much progress have we made. Buildings may be a sign of progress but how do Filipenos still live?" said Jose Custa, former governor of the Bangko Sentral ng Pikpinas and now presi-dent and CEO of Ph.Jamlife

"If you look at the per capita income of the Filippoo, it has hardly improved over 20 years. The buildings are owned by corporanous like ours, but does that mean the average Filipino has improved his living? No, probably not," added Cuisia, an MBC

"The buildings here may be taller, but the causes (for which we march) are still the same," said Guillermo Luz, MBC executive di-

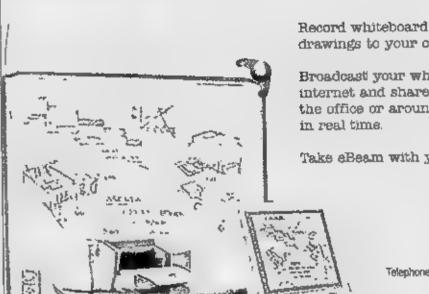
The two executives were referring to the Ayala skyline, which has transformed from a largely medium-rise enclave in the mid-80s into roday's towering row of glass and steel.

Before the anti-Marcos movement chmaxed at the Edsa highway, it first took a slow boil down Ayala's lanes which were the site of the protest rallies led by Aquino and her yel-low-shirted supporters from 1983 to 86.

lars recalled that the Ayaia rallies were then held every Friday, beginning shortly after the Aug. 31, 1986 burial of the slain Sen. Benigno Aquino, husband of the former Press

Roberto de Ocampo, a former finance secretary during the Ramos administra-DEJA/ 82-2

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Deja vu on Ayala

tion and now president of the Asian Institute of the Management, conceded that people like him who helped revive the post-Marcos economy may now be feeling "frustrated."

He was then living abroad when the Edsa revolt broke out but "came back shortly afterwards in order to help the country restore its economy, " he told the Inquitar,

"You can of course imagine that many people who have that experience are a little frustrated by the fact that, after 20 years and after some forward movement of the economy particularly from the Aguino to Ramos era, we're back to being the doormat of Asia and it doesn't feel good for the na-

We have been the example of a peaceful democratic revolution towards change, only to find (ourselves) going in circles," said De Ocampo, an MBC vice chair

Asked how the business community might view the Palace declaration of a state of national emergency, de Ocampo sa.d "I don't know the details but I think it might be a little bit too premature to call for a state of emergency especially since expressions of democratic opinions are something that is part of our democratic

Cuisia iamented that the declaration was "not a good sign, because that shows that perhaps we may see less freedoms, and perhaps there may be some impact in terms of the democracy that we are an familiar with. But I

"Definitely," Luz replied when asked if he saw any short-term impact the declaration may have on the country's business of mare "I understand that foreign analysis have already called this a disaster.

"What all at the (recent coup) rumots fa ied to do to the peso, he government did today," he stressed "People are keeping th seconomy affoat but wrong governments decisions are what's causing as

Laz also noted how "tronic" that Edsa I was being remembered on the very day the government communed a "berraya, of People Power" with yesterday's arrest of some antigovernment marchers use the "mudmannered" sociology professor and Inquision columnist Randy David

RP moves to attract Chinese tourists

By Alex Y. Vergora

Photos by Patrick Uy

EMBARKING ON A CAREER IN the hospitality biz? It pays to start learning Mandarin now.

China, not Japan or Kores, is poised to become the Philippiner leading source of tourists four years from now.

Close to 15 million Chinese are experted to travel the world in 2010 as compared to eight million Korears and 17 million Japanese, and Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano.

This fact wasn't lost on Durano and the rest of the DOT's Team China" when they went on a week-long marketing compaign to conquer the Middie Kungdom.

One of the mission's highlights was to promote the country's attractions in beachcrazy Shangha. home to more than 20 million mobile and rei. atively affluent Chinese.

Korea, tollowed by Japan, is still the country's number one source of tourists, said Durano. But at the rate arrivals from China have been growing, it won't come as a surprise "China soon occupies, he top spot-

And to think the Philippines had virtually ignored the potenna, of the market as recent

After Durano and company entered into the vast but antapped market in 2004 it took Chima a little over a year to sufpass Hong Kong and Talwar to and fourth place in terms of toutist arrivais

China is now fast catching up with the United States a tritchportaily strong market composed mostly of Fulpino-American bahitheyons and their famules.

Vast, uncontested

Indeed, the entire Chinese market is so vast and uncontested that DCT has amitted its focus on three key ones Bes ong Shangha and Xiamen

Durano plans to add the

the list this year.

BUSINESSMonday

We were getting less than 3,000 tourists per month from all over China is 2004," Durano said. "This year, we've been getting close to 10,000 tourists per month. Such a leap is far from incremental. It's exponential."

Por the first time in recent memory, the DOT has had to react its official target several rimes this year.

it met its year-end goal of at-55,000 Chinese pourists in less than six months.

It again surpassed expectations after it raised the target to

As an upside to this development, the majority of tourists from the world over have thosen travel close to their home countries since 9-11. The Chanese are proving to be no exception.

We might be able to attract 100 000 Chinese tourists this year," said Durano. "Our main chaffenge right now is to breach the 10,000 per month mark."

Such a trend merely echoes the robust growth being felt by the country's tourism sector, which seems to have rebounded after a series of negative travel advisories from such counciles as the US and Great Britain.

Wile global tourism grows by six to seven percent, said Durano, the Phy projet continues to post double cight growth.

TWe remotivisting owing with the marker " he added. "We're really capturing a pigger since of he marker

Fresh from string of official trips o London and Taiper, the energeric Durano mei separace y with trave agents and members of he Sha ghai medue in his attempt to liste more do ar spending Chinese to the Phaspines.

Early start

Part of DOT's marketing of forts in China began last year when Durano invited the first batch of Chinese trave, agents

southern city of Guangzhou to and journalists to an all-expense-paid pleasure trip to varlous parts of the country.

Dubbed as "familiarization tours," such trips, which seem to have generated a great deal of mileage, have now become routine at DOT

Modest funding basn't styresed DOT in its marketing

If anything, it has further inspired the department to be more creative and cost-effective in its approach, said Dura-

This, in turn, has reportedly caused some of the country's regional rivals to stop and take

"The strategic challenge in any industry is to find your space in the market place," he added. "Instead of placing ads on BBC and CNN, we found our space here in the local outlets. Since it is vistilially uncontested, we're leading."

Since 2003 Philippine Amlines' Airbus 320 (with a capac ity of 150 people) flies daily to

Lack of rooms

Ou biggest problem now is the tack of high end rooms." said Durano "The private sector is a eady responding to this by either expanding their existing faculties or building new ones Ir will take some time before heyre at finally ap and running.

The team with the exception of Durano, are flew other southern can of Kunning ins years sire of the four-day China Internationa, Travel Mart

The tourism persecary also flew to Seour Korea where DOT was sin ultaneously hold ing a malketing campaign

Reporteday the biggest gov errmen sanctioned event of its kind the armoa travel fair diaws coun lies near and far m the nattempt to court moneyed Chinese The Phi, pp ne pavu ion made use of back lighted



MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2004

CLOSE to 15 million Chinese are expected to travel the world in 2010 as compared to eight million Koreans and 17 million Japanese, said Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durane.

beaches and other bodies of water to stand out and lure in the crowd

After China, said Durano. the next big thing is India.

As he inclan middle class continues to increase due to industria za ion he sees a goid more in game froming Indians. who whose beach owing Chenese, are more attracted to city

"While we were trying to think of ways to see excess rooms in Man a we stumbed upon India," said Durano They want the stuff that they're prohibited from doing there One is gambiing, two is

and grant photo murais of branded shopping, because they're std. a closed economy, and three is entertainment."

The DOT promotion in New Deth, this April doverails with PALS plan to operate is first ev end led fughts between the Indian capital and Manila come

To keep the momentum going, DOT is now busy 'recreating' the country's strategic profile.

By apping moun unrapped market. Durano hopes to out pace and eventua v break away from the competition.

Whether you speak Mandamn or Hinds, the do lar signal is a universal symbol that need

The Philippine Economy: The continuing challenge

DURING THE BSP'S ANNUAL which takes out the unpact of reception for the banking and business community recently had one principal appeal to our friends to make the best of our proumstances, achieve progress in our own ipheres so the in the end the whole nation will be

"Cal to acrion Country above tary pouck seif" happens to be in accord with my appea. We are at convinced that the must do 'st for mance Coming from a very offithe Philippines along some of cut period of la ge and persusthe tems are structura, while some would require stream a. ing of policies. Any and all ef forts to address .h.s must do 1.5r are therefore quite cruc a. The next best thing to do a precise v. h.s. take act on in your respective spheres of influence As capta as of ridus ries, you can rruly generate tremendous benefits for our country and

What you have selected as guiding heme for this year is exactly the mindset we want Fig. pinos to have. Country above. sel If you can widen the reach of this message to cover as many Filipinos as possible then you would be a part of a chain that seeks to improve the nation

Let me share with you some positive news on the economic front which give us reason to be more confident about our future

2005 a most challenging year

By most accounts, 2005 was a very thallenging year for the Philippines. We had to contend with high or prices rating global interest rates lower farm output and non-economic tremors. Yet our economy, as measured by GDP continued to expand. Sure it wasn't at the pace we aimed for, but our economy proved .ts real lence once again.

The expansion in economic act vity was achieved amid an easing inflation environment to flation has communed to ease since the second half of 2005, supported mainly by the softening prices of god and oil and to some exten, the stronger peso. Head he inflation has fallen to 7.0 percent in the second half of 2005. The average inflation rate for ast year was 7 6 percent. More importantly, core inflation,

voiance food and energy prices on the CP, has stead y trended downwards. The decline in core inflation suggests that the inflationary pressures of the past year were not of a permanent de mand driven ha are. This fact supports he mired and selec-MAP's theme for this year, evely gntening bias of mone-

> Another source of optimism if the improving fiscal perfor ment embarked on and succeeded in its piral efforts towards fiscal consolidation, by way of in ensified tax administration and vita: new rax measures as wer as expend ture control. The nar ona. government budget deficit stood at P. 46 5 billion for 2005 well below the talget for the period this figure also represents the lowest budger shortfall tince 2001. As revenue gains continue with the VAT implementation we stand a good chance of seeing a balanced budget by 2008

The positive investor sentiment over the progress made on the isca, front as we, as hearthy inflows from rem cances have also grengthened the externaposition Latest estimates show that the overal becance of pay ments BOP, position for 2005 grood at a surp us of \$2.4 h on, which is a we come rurnaround from the previous years short

The peso ikewise ended gronger against the uS dorar on the back of the positive market sentiment and strong inflows. The peso ended 2005 as the top performing currency in the Asian

This surge in dollar inflows also a lowed the BSP to build up its douar reserves. At \$18.5 bit ion. as at end December 2005 he country's gross international reserves GIR) is signiciantly higher than the \$17 bitton targer for the year and is sufficient to cover about 4 months worth of imports of goods and services.

Meanwhite the country's externa, debt also narrowed to \$55.5 bit ion by end-September 2005 this amount continued to be made up mostly of med um-



and long term ab ties, which ensures that our debt payments remain manageable and sustain-

At the same time, the Philippine banking system continued morey or sounders As of November 2005, commercia banks non-performing loans. as a percentage to tota south resistered a single dig level of 8 7 percent Crowth in bank lending however, continues to be modest (2.1 percent in November but we expect it to rebound his year giver the submannal progress acroeved so facwich susia ned asset clear up

Having said his I have to admit the Philippines is not yet totally out of the woods. There are nisks that we have to face and manage in the years ahead. We are sure, however, to move forward if we persevere For as at the Bangko Sent at ng Propines, we are aware of the risks at endant to our pr mary responsibility ty of keeping prices stable

The Monetary Board had to respond promptly and carefully to hese refu ionary risks o he inflation target in the course of 2005 we assed our policy riter est rates by a total of 75 basis points and increased reserve te quirements by 200 basis points These were modest responses compared to other unscictions where their capacity is nee ha to the brim and the labor malket a stretched to the mit. Yet hey were decisive, considering the demand pressures were imited and the second round impact was yet clemerge By he second hall of 2005 inflation had plant

improving fundamentals

What then do we see in 2006? We con nue to face uncertainties, but be seve the country's improving economic fundamentals should give us a reasonable degree of optimizin about

Economic activity for one thing is kely to continue at a reasonable pace driven mainly by he services and industry sectors Nonethe ess the rise in o. prices ove the past year is the who take its to on domestic demand particularly on consumption spending For this reason the deve opment budget coold rating commillee ta 2006 har is ke y to be closer to the lower end of its larget at 5.7 percent.

As too inflation it is expected to be higher in 2006, given the continued upside risks Oil prices for example are expected to remain high relative to heur historical trend and the RVAT in likely to exert at least a short resm, upward pressure on consumer prices. Taking into account the recent easing of oil proces, as we, as he strengthening of he peso inflation is expecied o hover between 7.5 per rent and 8 a percent in 2006. Let me point our though that we do expect an easing of inflation in the secondinal infithe year, as the impact of the RVAT dim hishes.

Meanwhile improvements in fiscal performance, ample aquidity in the financial system, and moderate credit growth are expected to mit gate the impact of inflationary pressures on mar ket interestinales

There is also good reason to expect a strong external position. this year. Dougrunflows, or manby from OFW remirrances and invest ments, are expected to contimue to come in with healthy inflows, the exchange rate is possed to remain broadly stable in the course of the year.

White economic performance appears to be on track, we remain waichful of the potential risks and challenges to the economic out ook. These dist include he or owing. It voiable ty in world or prices 2) a build up of excess aquidity in the financia system is possible exchange rate voiationly due to excess liquidity and (4 adverse shi to n the public's inflation ex-

in he face of these challenges. the public can count on the BSP to make sure has these risks do not endanger our path to eco-

nomic progress. The BSP will may committed to is mandate of promoting low and stable infla-

The BSP is also committed to strengthening he financial sector through continued structural reforms. Foremost of hese measures is the clean up of banks balance sheets of nonperforming assets. The clean up will help spur credit and investment activmy and create the basis for more susta nable growth in the medi-

Other key financ a reforms will be focused on 1 mp. oving he BSP's supervision echnology and capacity 2 a gning prodential regula on of the banking system with international standa ds and best plactices, 3 streng hering corporate governance standards and marker discip ne merhan sms 4) furrher de vetoping the domestic capital ma ker and 5 enhancing he payments system.

Efforts are also underway for the implementa on of Basic II accord and adoption of international accourting standards by local banks. These in tha lives are designed to heing local banking practices in one with internapopally accepted mandards

n the area of capital market development the BSP will contimue its active consboration with other government agencies and the private sector for the completion of much-needed ma ket intrastructure to enhance system in eg ity and over au marker confidence

We will altewise pursue further enhancements in financial enformation to guide investor decisions. A key effort in his area is the establishment of credit rating agencies. We are also working closely with Congress on the establishment of a centranzed credit information system to help private enterprises secure better access to credit ire duce borrowing costs as well as min mize the risk exposures of financia rermedia es

The BSP piso actively seeks to wider the nivesto base of he iocai (maicin markett through a number of new investment products which would bester effect market prices. These win neip

encourage more institutional investors such as insurance comparies mutua funds and pensign funds to part upage in the cap ta market Future reform measures will eventually lead to the introduction of exchangebased products that can further st in late market activity and deepen iquidity

Continuing challenge

The near term economic outlook suggests more vibrant economic activity but here are potential obstacles on the way to tusts nable growth. The critic task ahead is for us to focus, not just on macro-economic stabi lization is he short term but aiso on preserving the momentum. for economic reforms to ensure sustained growth in the years to come Consistent with maps marching order we need to act ou side of durseives.

Most of the items on the must do list will take time before these come into fruition Reforming an economy is an enormous task, one that the government, even in theory, cannot do by itself. Governments govern, or better still, guide but it is the economic and business community that creates commod ; es and ser vices bu ds the economy and competes withe global market

take heart in the fact that our business leaders in map remain a sta wart partner of the government in making economic progress possible Personally am opt mistic har our hard work and resourcefulness will a low as to overcome our remaining economic problems. As a people they say Propinos have a knack for mirring adversity into opportunity my caution is that we should not a ways welcome adversity to be able to turn it into opportunity. I be ieve that by responding to the challenges with a uceper sense of purpose by adhering to "country above setf" as a good ng pi ne ple we can reach our full potential By an means, we have what it takes to suc-

(Edited speech delivered during the 57th MAP maugural meeting. The quitior is governor of the BSP Feedback at mapsec@globenet com ph)

BUSINESSMonday

By Joselle dR Badilla

mutiny in 2003.

PDI Mindanaa Burean

BEING IN DETENTION DID NOT

stop Air Force 1st Lt. Billy Pascua

from continuing a business ven-

Pascua belongs to the Magdalo

Pascua, part-owner of TTCS

group, which staged a short-lived

Outdoor Apparel and General

Merchandise on Bayani Road in

Port Bonifacio, found that deten-

tion does not stop a bag manufac-

In fact, the company he shares

with partner Monique Benesa, is

now considered a pioneer in the

"It all started as a hobby," Pas-

During his school days, Pascua

Later, he decided to design his

In 2001, with a loan of

P20,000 as capital, Pascua, lus

brother, and Benesa started de-

veloping designs for bags and

then made these these into actual

They also started product and

own bags and knapsacks and

coilected knapsacks and bags.

cua tells the INOURER.

partnered with Benesa.

products for evaluation.

turing business from growing.

ture he started five years back.

Growing a firm from behind bars

Short but significant: Drucker on leadership

LAST NOVEMBER 2005 THE world iost a great management and leadeaship giau in Peter B Drucker: As a bribute to Drucker, John Maxwell is giving up his space this week so that we can publish highlights from an interview Drucker gave to Forbes magazine

Peter F Drucker stopped giving media interviews in 2002. But an October 2004, he granted an exception to Forbes Publisher Rich Karlgaard, who met with the 95year-old management guru at his "surprisingly apartan" home in Caremont, Ca ifornia.

The interview was arranged by Rick Warren, author of "The Purpose-Driven Life" and head of Saddleback Community Church in Lake Porest, California, whom Drucker has been advising for two decades.

Kar gaard's recap of his twohour meeting with Drucker is a must-read for leaders who value practical, straightforward advice about how to lead more effectively. To wher your appetite, here are a few of Drucker's thoughts on various aspects of leadership.

 "Successful eaders don't start out asking, What do I want to do?' They ask, 'What needs to be done?' Then they ask, 'Of those things that would make a difference, which are right for me?" They don't tackle things that they aren't good at."

 "Charismatic leadership by it self certainly is greatly overstated Look one of the most effective American presidents of the last 100 years was Harry Truman. He didn't have an ounce of chansma Truman was as bland as a dead mack-

PHC acquires hi-tech equipment

FORTE WITH JETSTREAM, THE MOST ADVANCED GAMMA CAMERA systems, was turned over by Philips Medica. Systems to the Philippine Heart Center during the mauguration of the hospital's nuclear medicine facility. The installation of the gamma camera systems made up the second batch of delivery of Philips Medical System equipment under the ORET

project, a partnership between the Department of Health, the Nether-

lands government and the Philips Group of Companies in the Philippines

cailing for the delivery of an extensive line of medical equipment and re-

A LEADER'S Iohn C. Maxwell

erel. Everybody who worked for him worshiped him because he was absolutely trustworthy. If Truman said no, it was no, and if he said yes, it was yes. And he didn't say no to one person and yes to the next one on the same issue."

 The most dangerous traps for a leader are those near-successes where everybody says that if they just give it another big push it will go over the top. One tries it once. One tries it twice. One tries t a third time. But, by then it should be obvious that this will be very hard to do So, as I always advise my friend Rick Warren, 'Don't tel, me what you're doing, Rick Tell me what you've stopped doing.

comments.

11/19/cz rk 1119drucker.htm:?partner=smallbusi-

ness newsietter

For more of Drucker's insightful http://www.forbes.com/2004/

For information on John Maxwell's in-house or public leadership or teamwork workshops, piease e-mail as at maxweil@inspire ph or call 813-2732/03 Text MAXWELL ON to 4632 (Smart) to get daily SMS leadership insights from John Maxwell, God bless!

and outdoor apparel members of the Philippine Navy's elite Special Welfare Group (SWAG) and the Air Porce's 205th Tactical Heli-

BILLY Pascua belongs to the

Magdalo group which staged a

motiny in 2003. He makes bags

copter Wing. production of tactical gear for the With only two designs, one for each usut, they started manufacturing items for personal use of

"We only manufacture when somebody orders," Pascua tells

the INCURRER Then more orders started coming in There were also requests

for other products. So, Pascua and his partners started marketing different kinds

"We started getting subcontractors for making the bags but still on per order basis. We hared

about four workers to do the orders," Pascua says.

During the second quarter of 2002, Pascua showed their sample products to fellow pilots at the Mactan Air Base, Cebi. City.

It was a big but

In 2003, the still unnamed business went fu +-blast

It started producing assault packs, bags, cases, tactical slings, holsters, racrical thigh rig, tachcal chest rig. hydration system load-bearing equipment, vests, belts and accessories

When he was arrested for the failed Oakwood mutiny, Pascua continued doing business uside the Villamor Air Base, where he is detamed

It was also while in detention

that re shought of adopting brand

name Tactics for the products. Now, a though he does not mind personally taking orders Pascua admitted is different

when you do your business freely. "It's hard doing business while in detention but it's one way of

surviving," he said "How do I manage? Through

couriers, partners and Inlends," Pascua said. To make sure everything goes

smoothly, Pascua said his partner "visits me more often to get nstructions.3 "There is nothing to do while you are in detention but to

make yourse,f productive," he

Then in 2004, TTCS was formairzed into a company.

It also started joining local and foreign trade fairs to solicit more

"Of course being detained here. I wasn't present during those events. I was represented by my partner," he says

From a small start-up, TTCS was able to procure more equip-

"In every business, the decision to take risk would help us start, discipline heips as to finish," Pas-



THE TURNOVER rites of the Philips Gamma Camera. Philips Philippines president Med Mateo (3rd from left), Health Undersecretary Jade del Mundo (5th from left) and Philippine Heart Center director Dr. Ludgerio Torres (4th from right), with guests.

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Walang ina na 'di nangangarap ng magandang kinabukasan para sa kanyang anak. Isang kinabukasang dulot ng paghahandang dala ng edukasyon.

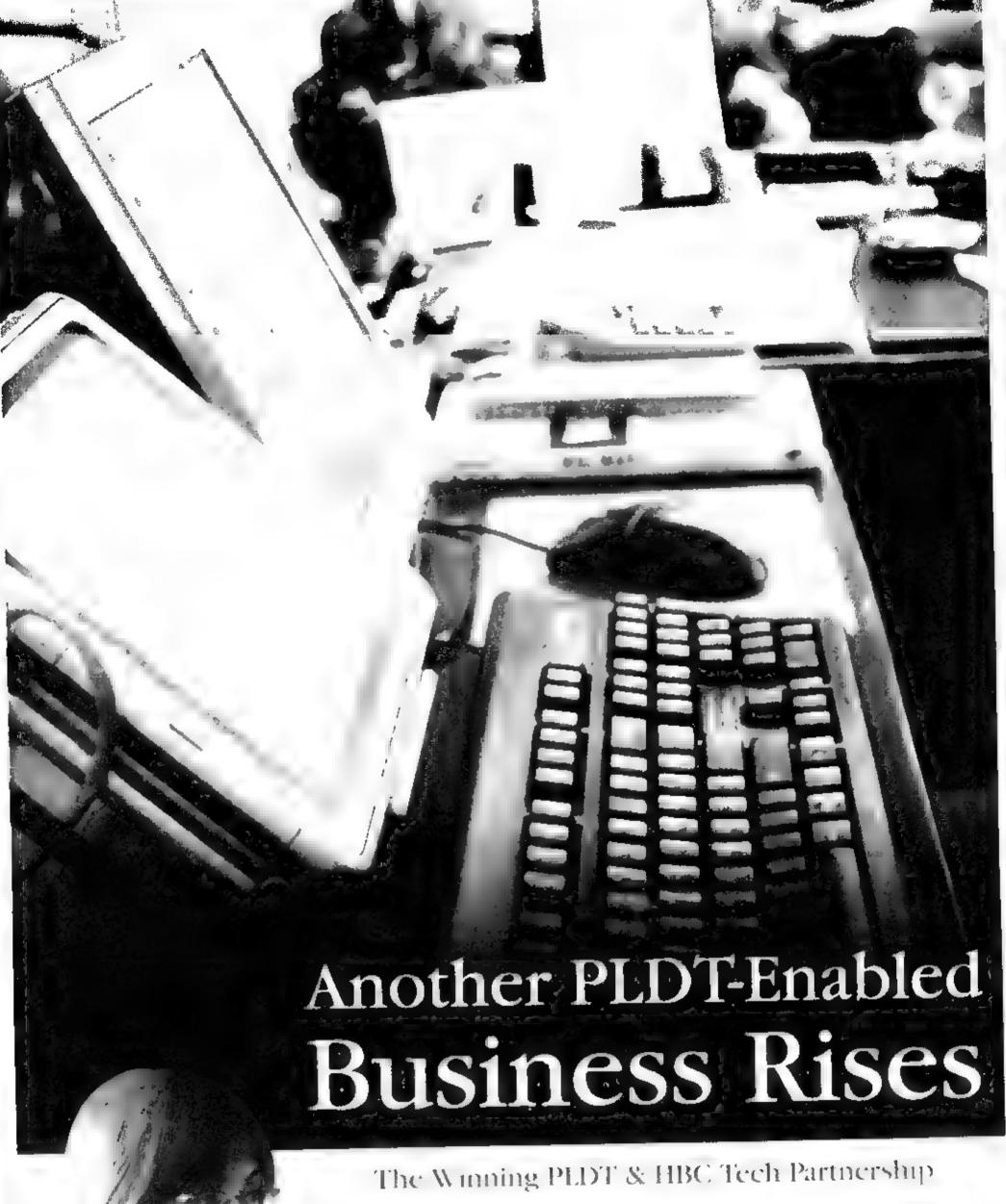
Gaya ng ma, hangad din ng Philam Plans ang isang magandang kinabukasan para sa myong anak. Sa pamamagitan ng Pangako Education Plans na abot-kaya at Gold Education Plans na nagbibigay ng pinakamahusay na benepisyong pang-edukasyon, siguradong matutupad na ang pangarap mo para sa kanya.

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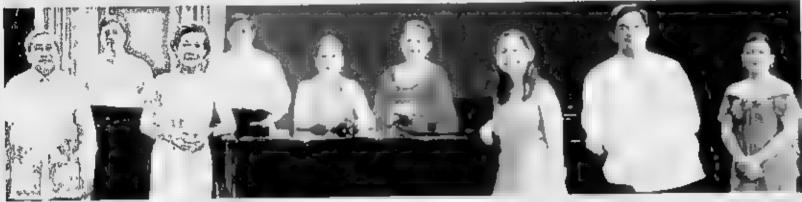
Philippine arts

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of piano virtuosi

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BNP Paribas officials Claude Haberer (second from left, second row), Peter Labrie (third from left, second row) and Anthony DeBarry (second from right, second row), with CCP president Nestor Jardin (third from left, first row) pose with some of the country's leading planists.

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Showdown of piano masters

By Amadés Ma. Guerrero Contributor

T HAS ALL THE MAKINGS OF a major show. And it is also backed up, in a way, by the euro, the European currency which is challenging the almighty US dollar.

Comes now "Virtuosos, A Wealth of Plano Masters," to be staged at the Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo (Main Theater) of the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) on March 3, 8 p.m.

The concert brings together 12 piano virtu-osi, a weil-known cellist (Renato Lucas), members of Ballet Philippines in modern dance numbers, and two major orchestras (the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra and the San Miguel Phi.harmonic Orchestra), to be directed by Eugene Castilio, PPO conductor.

The performing planists range from child prodigy Inna Montesclaros, aged 12, to Nena Villanueva, ageless. The other virtuosos (in alphabetical order) are Della Besa, Ryan Cayabyab, Anamaria de Guzman, Mary Anne Espina, Rudolf Golez, Najib ismail, Fr. Miguel Maramba, OSB, Peter Porticos, Raul Sunico,

and J. Greg Zumega. Stage direction is by Monino Duque.

The program is a heady merange of the classical-remantic repertoire, with a dash of Pilipino fantasy. These include compositions by (and excerpts from) Mozart, Bizet, Wagner, Liszt, Rachmaninoff, Donizetti, Gershwin, Buencamino and Cayabyab.

Strong supporter

The concert is part of the CCP's "Arts for the People" program. The main sponsor is the Paris based BNP Paribas, a leading private bank and investment house in Europe known for its strong support for the arts.

At a recent press conference at the CCP announcing the March 3 event, three BNP Paribas officials in the Asian Region were present: CEO Haberer, Claude head of territory Peter Labrie and head communication Anthony DeBarry

Haberer, a chartsmatic Frenchman, described himself as friend of the Philippines and of the CCP for 25 years now." There is no bet ter place than here, he added, to stage a concert like "Virtuosos" and "It is also a way of announcing our presence in the Philippines and the region.. of emphasizing our business."

As for the other rewards, Haberer quipped, "We get a few tickets "

Labrie, a Canadian, also paid tribute to the Filipino artist. "The Philippines has e very strong component in the arts... you see Filipinos performing everywhere, even in Las Vegas. As for BNP Paribas, the bank ucts as a catalyst to meet the needs of our chents."

"Virtuosos," then, is a wedding of art and commerce. CCP president Nestor Jardin set the tone for the day when he declared that "in these times of political uncertainty, natural and manmade caramities, and tragedies, the arts are one of the few things we can latch on to."

One is reminded of the famous words of the writer Katherine Anne Porter in 1940, when Europe was in flames and Asia was about to be engulfed by war: "They (the arts) cannot be destroyed because they represent the substance of faith and the only reality. They are what we find again when the ruins are cleared

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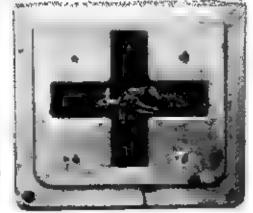
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CUESHE

Wire Tuazon at Magmet

Wire Tuazon will present "Authentic Hacienda," March 2, at Maginel Bauery ABS, Loop, Eud Center ABS-CBN Compound, QC. The exhibit features objects and paintings in ename: and silver leaf. Call. 4100995



"THE ESSENTIALIST Trap"

On-the-spot painting contest

The Ayaia Museum will present Likhang Sloing, an on-the-spot painting competition at Ayaia Museum, March 11. The centest is open to all highschool students. Entry forms are available at the nearest Rotary Office or at Ayala Museum, Makati Ave. cor De la Rosa St. Greenbeil Park, Ayala Center Makati. Call 7577117 local 28 or 7533098. Entry forms may be submitted through fax, 7573588 or 8451655. Deadline is not later than March 1

Positivist show

The Food and Art Galerie at 12/F GT Tower Ayala Ave., cor. H.V. De la Costa St. presents works of graduales of Positivism Art Workshop by E.R. Tagle. Participants include Susan and Matthew Mendoza, Mark Celeste. Robert Abog, Pauline Pascuai. Olga Pacana. Call 6112432 or 0927-



THE DANCE, ' by Poch Maval

Naval at Mag:Net

Poch Navai will open his latest exhibit "Seduction of Images" March 7, at Mag:net Gallery Paseo. The exhibit features abstract works sugpasting "ramote and direct references to the conquists and Magel an as a torm of engkanto, or a seducer who uses images to influence events," It stins until March 28. Call

Oliveria at Drawing Room

ayson Oliveria's latest exhibit, Disoriented by an Aesthetic Experiance." is on view at The Drawing Room G/F Metrostar Blog., Metropolitan Ave., Makati, until March 8. Call 8976990/7877

Yuson at Domicillo

Reg Yuson presents snapshots taken during trips abroad, usually in

black and white. His exhibit is until March 4, at Domicillo, Unit-6 Cliffhouse, Gen Emillo Aguinaido Highway, Mahariika East, Tagaytay, Call (046) 4132093

Photo exhibit

"Twelve by Two," a photography exhibit featuring 12 gelatin silver prints, runs until Feb. 28 at Starbucks at 6750 Ayala Ave., Makati. Part of the proceeds of this exhibit will go to SparkHope, a project of Starbucks and unicef. The exhibit is by photo-artists Julius Clar, a Multimedia Arts faculty member of De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde, and Jover Ubalde, a Benridean graduale Call 5267441 to 47 local 123.

Digital photography

The Alcove Gallery will hold "Digital Photography 101 Photography and the Computer." by Jay Alonzo, on March 8-9, 13-15, 5-9 p.m. at Filipinas Her-Itage Library, Makati Ave., Makati. Due to arrited slots, interested participaints must register on or before March 1. Call 8921801

Roxas at Galerie Astra

Galerie Astra presents "Kassel," the newest series of abstract works by abstractionist Eghai Roxas. "Kassel" is composed of 10 large and 37 small paintings, mostly in black and white, with a combination of various textures and gestural strokes. Three installation pieces documenting the painter's aesthetic persona within the past year will be on view, composed of a plethora of objects which ascalls his European solourn, as well as his meditations on the current state of the country. The exhibit opens on March 8 and will run until March 16. Galerie Astra. is on 2/F, LRI Business Plaza, 210 N. Garcia St. (formerly Reposo St.), Bel-Air II, Makati. Cali 8903988, 7243032 and 7269015.

Marikina group at Hues

Kujay Marikina presents "Affairs of the Heart," until March 20, at Gallerie Hues MC Home Depot, Fort Bonifacio. Taguig Proceeds of the exhibit will go to the indigent patients of the Children's Cancer Ward-Philippine Children's Medical Center PCMC, in QC Participating artists include Honey Banal. Dennis Bernardo. Remy Boquiren, Monn Caneza, Ige Concepcion, Chie Cruz, Grie Cruz, Ambie Flores, Lydia Vetasco



ARTIST Tam P. Austria (in hat) hosts "Artists' Convergence 2006," his annual public sketching session, at his Antipolo residence. The affair draws art patrons and students. Beneficiary is the Philippine Institute for the Deaf, Guests of honor include lawyer Amado Santiago, banker Montiel de los Santos, and Willie Pangilinan and their spouses.

New story collection by Landicho

Domingo G. Landicho wili aunch his new collection of stories, "Bathaluman," published by the Areneo de Manila University Press, tomorrow, 4 p.m., at Putungang Recto, Bulwagang Rizal, JP Diliman, Quezon City. A poetry-reciting contest, the Landichohan 2006, will open the aunch.

The UP Department of Filipino, Ateneo Press, and UF Office of

WRITER AND UP PROFESSOR the initiative for Culture and the Arts sponsor the affair, UP president Emerhoda Roman leads the

"Bathaluman" consists of 14 stones with a strong streak of fantasy. They span over four decades of the author's writing career and cover a range of subjects, from religion to art, dreams, prejudice

and more. Ca., 9290113 or 9244899.

Landscape architects need culti

ANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS are a small but stordy bunch of people. Until very recently only the University of the Philippines offered a degree course in landscape architecture. Now the University of San Carlos in Cebu offers a similar course.

Around 180 Philippine practitioners are nationally licensed by the Professional Regulation Commission today. Of that number, only 20 percent actively practice the profession.

Dolly Quimbo Perez, who received her degree in the University of California at Berkeley, is among its pioneer practitioners, having been active in the field since the late 1950s.

One of the first gardens she designed was in the house that I grew up in I , watched each time she came to inspect the construction of our garden, discovering that running beneath the lawn. terrace and plants, paved stepping paths were a maze of drainage pipes, electrical wiring. structural foundations that supported a pavilion and the fence.

I found out that plants Augusto F. were not chosen for the simple reason that they looked good. There was

logic that tied everything together. What she did was certainly not "exterior decorating" as many perceived. On the contrary, a landscape architect is definitely a highly trained professional, not just any old gardener.

The splendor of the natural landscape in the Philippines is unparalleted. However, many landscapes



DAPITAN Plaza landscaped in traditional Filipino with church as focal point and Rizal statue at center

are what they are today because of the manner humans interacted with the nature surrounding them.

The Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordillera, a Unesco World Heritage property, is among the world's best examples of the coexis-

OF PLACE

Villalon

tence between man and Nature that has produced a site of stunning beauty that once was ecologically sustamable as well. The majestic manmade terraces are designed to follow mountain slopes.

The designed landscape (public and private gardens, plazas, parks, and public open spaces) is a still unknown component of Philippine caltanal heritage, an unstudied area ripe for research and documenta-

tion that can finally shed light on our garden and landscape tradition.

History and tradition are totally relevant to 21st-century landscape design. Two magnificent gardens, Limiganga by Geoffrey Bawa and Brief by his brother Bevis Bawa, take their inspiration from classical European landscaping, which is recreated in the tropical climate of Sri Lanka



PASEO Magallanes in 18th-century Manila combines Spanish landscaping elements with the tropical Philippine climate and flora.



BRIEF is another Sri Lankan estate that patterns its garden after forma-French classical landscape design.

Jucar Raquencyclopedic al

By Constanting C. Tejero

AR CULTURE AND FUTURISM were fated to be joined from the start. That short-lived art movement of the early 20th century, for one, always aspired to that "superior essence of progress marked by its major symbols: the car and its speed."

That's how the gallery note introduces Jucar Raquepo's exhibit "Abstract Thought Towards Emphatic Thought," 11 pieces in oil op canvas and an installation, until Feb. 28 in Magmet Gallery Paseo, G/F, Paseo Center, Paseo de Roxas Ave. cor Sedeno St., Makati City

And rightly so. But then the note goes OIL "Progress is containedly associated with unnovation, the new, an optimistic view of the future, a metropolis run with precise ef ficiency. Hence, it is an absolute aim continually aspired for and which all seemingly toralizarian states deem to deliver for their citizens.

"Accordingly, it's what the Futurists have built hymns to-to beraid the march of modernity, the mechanization of industries, a complete revolution for new pictorial imagery aggrandizing speed, sleekness, movement, the glammer of invention, the thunder of motors, above all. It is to this that Raquepo's recent works allude as he recurs to his familiar theme of hobby de-

Such high-mindedness can turn off the common gallery-goer who just wants to glory in the rich visuals, in the vibrant coi ors and dynamic tines of these pieces.

The paintings are more complex versions of those in Raquepo's show last year The installation, "Pimped My Art," consists of a piece in oil and decals on canvas attached with a DVD player and LCD monitor showing a digital animation by the artist, bumper guards, amplifier, speakers, neon backlight, spotlights, blinkers.

Raquepo's art is unique on the local art scene, and a show like his is a must see for art patrons on the lookout for young blood



"MIRAGE"



"MUSCLE" (above) and "Shock Absorber" (right)

Folklore confab, festival in Bukidnon

"CONFLAGRATION," by Rosario Bitanga

nomist Rusario "Charmo" Bicanga

will launch her coffee-table book "Living for Art," on March 7, 6

p.m., at Museum Space, Ayala

Museum. The book is authored hy award-winnage art critic Cid

Reyes. Book designer is Reiner

cal-chronological overview of

Bitanga's life and work, tracing

the trajectory of her major

themes. The event coincides

with an exhibition of the artist's

recent paintings and sculptures.

Bitanga is a Bachelor of Fine

Arts graduate from University of

"Living for Art" is a biographi-

Book on Rosario Bitanga

PIONEER ARTIST-ABSTRAC- Santo Tomas in 1958. She also

A NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON teaching folk literature with focus on "myth, epic and other heroic narrarives in the education curriculum" will be held at San issdro College, Malaybalay City, on March 1 3. The keynote lecture will be delivered by former UP dean Dr. Vivencio R. José.

It will be followed by the famous Kaamulan Pestival, or "social gathering," which showcases the traditions and customs of seven ethnic groups of Bukadnon, the province's history and culture, street dancing

contest, horse and rodeo show, trade and agrifair, food festival, garden show and other indegenous

holds the distinction of being the

first Filipina to earn a Master's

Degree in Fine Arts from the

Crashbook Academy of Art

BLoomfield Hills, Michigan (1960). She is the dean of the

Institute of Fine Arts and Design,

an affiliate of the Philippine

Women's University. She is a

consultant on sculpturing and

member of the advisory commit-

tee of UST College of Fine Arts

Glass Wing, Ayala Museum,

Makati Ave. and E De la Rosa

The Museum Space is on 2/F

and Design.

St., Makati.

The seminar fee of P800 will cover food, conference papers and other materials.

(Mindanao) For Inquiries: carching unaba@yaboo.com, (088)2214423; (Visayas) Dt. Zenaida Prench 0916-7030947; (Lizon) juliermallan@yahoo.com, (045)5992794; 0919-72229388, (Metro Manila) efrenahueg@yahoo.com, 8713049







using national cultural references and local plant material.

Roberto Burle Marx tamed Brazilcan jungles to produce country gardens of far-ranging tropical vistas, which were also based on classical European models. He planned urban plazas and city gardens. His highly creative work pushed the Brazilian and international awareness of the landscape to higher levels.

New level of scholarship

Tracing the extent, development and nuances of traditional landscape design brings a new level of scholarship to the landscape architecture pracritioners, grounds it culturally to Philippine traditions, and leads the young profession toward profession-

Becoming aware of the history of landscape (researching and documenting the designed Philippine landscape) is a missing design source for today's landscape architects who

mostly seem to look westward, away

Inspiration comes from many sources, not exclusively books and magazines. Inspiration comes from information and images experienced by a designer which are stored in his mind, ready to be used when the appropriate moment arrives.

To be inspired, it helps to be extra inquisitive. Go and experience all kinds of places. Look at anything and everything. Pick up images from anywhere and everywhere.

Being aware of Philippine culture is an excellent resource for inspiration. See how traditional landscapes express the close relationship of the people and the nature that surrounds them. Understand that the designed landscape, like architecture, provides a spatial envelope where human life takes place.

To contribute its share to the complex task of nation-building, the responsibility of the landscape architect is to improve our quality of life. Whether contributions to the improvement of everyday life through landscape design have been significant is for the individual practitioners and their professional association to determine.

When I was asked to speak at the Philippine Association of Landscape Architects (Pala) conference in 2004, the mevitable question of whether there was a Philippine landscape design was asked.

I remember challenging the landscape architects in the audience to come up with an answer.

When I returned to speak at the 2006 Pala conference a week ago, there still, was no answer to the quesnon from the audience.

B-mail the author at afvillation@

Schedule of Activities

FCAP: As an Organization

- Understanding the E-vat Law
- Food Hygiene und Santiation by ECOLAB
- Financing the Creative Industry by the Department of Trade and industry (PTI)

by ALSON AQUACULTURE CORP.

• Rem Trands in Floral Styling

by Mr. Jaime Santingo of the

- BY NESTLE PHILS.
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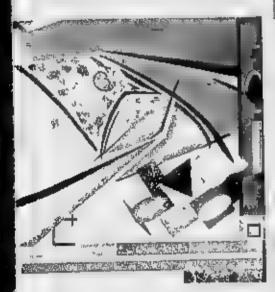
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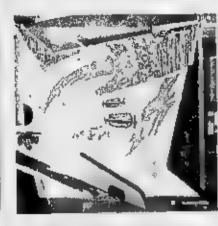


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straction





But over-hyping like that can dampen one's enthusiasm

The exhibits tide itself sounds far-out. And then the note has to cite influences that would make pastiches of these pieces, a roll call which sounds encyclopedic, indeed

Thus. "Motifs of hot-rod flames, racing stripes, checked flag parterns are juxtaposed with scaled-down Stellas, Mondrians, Albers, Ballas, Klees, Kandinskys, Newmans, Poliocks, and all other icorus abstract works known in art fustory. These are repeated, resized, reconfigured on each currvns rike stickers or clip-an types."

The paintings themselves the note describes as "a surface where time and space have been flattened, and where corporate logos, TV-station iDs, Web interfaces, neon signs, MMDA cotor blocks are ever more ominous than the sum, stars and clouds."

And it even quotes Puturism's founder, the poet Marinetti: "We already live in the absolute, because we have created eternal, omnipresent speed."

This sounds pretty exciting, and quite inventive of the artist. It is attested by pieces such as "Muscle" and "Mirage."

Indeed, these artworks bear those characteristics cited by the gallery note, and we appreciate them as such. If only the PR writer doesn't sound out-of-this-world.

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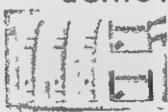
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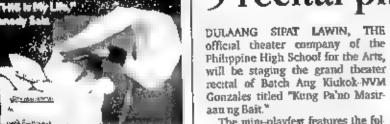
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LIFESTYLE

5 recital plays from arts school



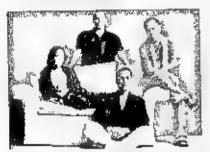
Ballet Philippines explores tango

BALLET PHILIPPINES STAGES its 36th season finale, "Tango F.lipino/La Divina," a scorching blend of bodies in ballet and bailroom style, on March 17 19 (2 p m. matinee/ 8 p.m. gala), at the Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo (Main Theater) of Cultural Center of the Philippines.

The company fuses the sensual tango with the Spartan clarity of contemporary dance. There will also be an evening of original Argentinean tango music combined with the Pinoy 'Dansa.'

Tango Fil pino/La Divina" features the works of Tony Fabelia, Augustus "Barn" Damian, resident choreographer Alden Lugnasin, and Edna Ledesma, 2005 Blackpoo. Dance Pestival champson. Lucy Torres-Gomez will give a spescial performance.

Cal. 5511003, 5510221, or 8326011



THE CHOREOGRAPHERS: (clockwise from top) Bam Damian, Tony Fabella, Alden Lugnasin and Edna Ledesma

The mine-playfest features the following plays: "Progress," an adaptation of National Artist for Literature E Sionil Jose's short story, "The First Snow of November," Alfonso Da-

Dancers Came;" and Rody Vera's "Ang THE DULAANG Sipat Lawin Theater Company of the Philippine High School Also included is a double bill fea-turing "Libis," a translation of Martin

the CCP Tanghalang Huseng recitalists. Batute on March 10-12, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m., directed by Herble Go and co-directed by the six senior

Call 0927-3276610, 8323678 (Pie), 0921 3544432 (Lakhi) or (049) 5362862.

Dulce concert kicks off Mary Johnston school centennial

Personal Revival Asia (Prasia) will team up for the thanksgiving concert and launch of the centennial celebration of the Mary Johnston College of Nursing of the Philippine Christian University at the Phil-

canay's Palanca-winning adaptation

of the short story "The Day the

Sherman's "Bent," and "Makiknawag

Lang Ako," an adaptation of Gabriel

Garcia Marquez's short story, "I Only

These plays will be presented at

Came to Use the Phone.*

Unang Aswang."

Dulce will perform gospel songs while the Prasia gospel vocal ensemble will render soul-inspiring Chris-

According to MJCN Dean Edna Imperial, the concert will kick off the yearlong celebration of MJCN's 100th anniversary on February 2007.

SINGER DULCE AND amlife Theater tonight at Theme of the celebration is "A Century of Nursing Through God's Faithful-

> Proceeds of the event will support the registration fees of retired alumni of the MJCN for next year's grand homecoming, as well as the general fund for the celebration.

For tickets, call 2450806 or 2450824. log O. www.mjcn.r8.org.

Tenor Malaki, pianist Coo in concert

SANITARIUM MANILA Foundation Inc. and the Manda Adventist Medical Center and School of Medical Arts Inc., will feature pianist Jonathan Arevalo Coo and tenor Sal Malaki in a concert on March 5 at the CCP Main Theater.

Proceeds will go to assist poor patients and student scholars, and improve school and hospital facilities.

Maiaio is a noted tenor-soloist of the Los Angeles Opera and LA Master Chorale. His repertoure will feature inspirational, Broadway, opera, Flapino and international selec-

Coo is a graduate of the University of Santo Tomas Conservatory of Music and University of Rochester's Eastman School of Music

The Manila Adventist Medical Center, for merly the Manila Sanitarium and Hospital, & a 150-bed ternary hospital, part of a chain of more than 500 healthcare centers operated worldwide by the Seventh-day Adventist Church and affiliated with the Adventist Health System

For tickets, call 5363677, 0917-8988459. 5259191 local 641 or 0917-8988459

Rep mounts longest-running off-Broadway musical

T LOVE YOU, YOU'RE PERFECT, NOW vara, Nic Manahan, Cathy Azanza and Liesi Changel," one of the longest running off-Broadway musicals, is Repestory Philippines' latest offering at Rep's Globe Theater at Onstage in Greenbelt 1 Show runs until March 12 with 8 p.m. shows on Fridays and Saturdays and 3:30 p.m. shows on Sun-

With book and lysics by Joe DiPietro and music by Jimmy Roberts, the musical features four talented actors-Robbie GueBatucan-taking on various roles and singing to the musical beats of the '60s, '70s, and '80s. Michael Williams directs.

Tickets at P200, P300 and P500 are available at the Rep office (8870710) at C2-A Building C, Karrivin Plaza, Pasong Tamo Extension, and at Ticketworld outlets (8919999) Discounted tickets are available for group sales and special perfor-



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Heroes and superheroes

Mabesa's agitprop 'Gabriela' becomes strangely fascist beside the gay ' Zaturnnah'

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CONTACTOR VOIL IN THE CONTACTOR CONTACTOR VOIL IN THE CONTACTOR CON

By Gibbs Cadiz

Preciated "Gabriela," Dulaang UP's just-ended production at Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero Theater, would've rested largely on how you viewed the street theatrics of the Left.

Does the sight of clenched fists, locked arms and flag-draped tableaux stir you? Or does it make your eyes glaze over?

eyes glaze over If you're of the former, then "Gabriela," directed by Tony Mabesa, would have made you swoon. Billed as an oratorio, it felt and sounded more like a rally at Liwasang Bonifacio. There was endless flag-waving, fist-pumping, speechify-ing "makibaka", ins.

ing, "makibaka"-ing.
An activist lawyer got shot in Act 2, and on the next scene he became the Crucified Christ. The implication was clear: Leftists, for all their head-scratching antics at times (quite apart from the validity of their causes), were nothing less than marryrs

Where was Gabriela Silang in all this? She was in Act 1, but barely. What little it said about the woman who led the llocanos in a short-lived revolt against Spanish rule in the 1800s gave hint that she was more complex than history books had allowed us to see.

But that rich, enigmatic life didn't attract Joi Barrios, who wrote "Gabriela's" book and lyrics. What she wanted was to demonstrate the woman's enduring relevance to the present by projecting her fierce heroism on the struggle for progressive politics.

Pair enough. Steep that correlation in earnestness and oversimplification, however, and it could only spawn agitprop. "Gabriela's" titular heroine ended up hilacked by the kind of romantic utopianism best exemplified by this startling line: "Lahat ng taong nanandata ay taong HEROES/ D3



Tanghalang.

Pilipino's

"Z52/5a

Zaturnnah,

Ze Muzikal



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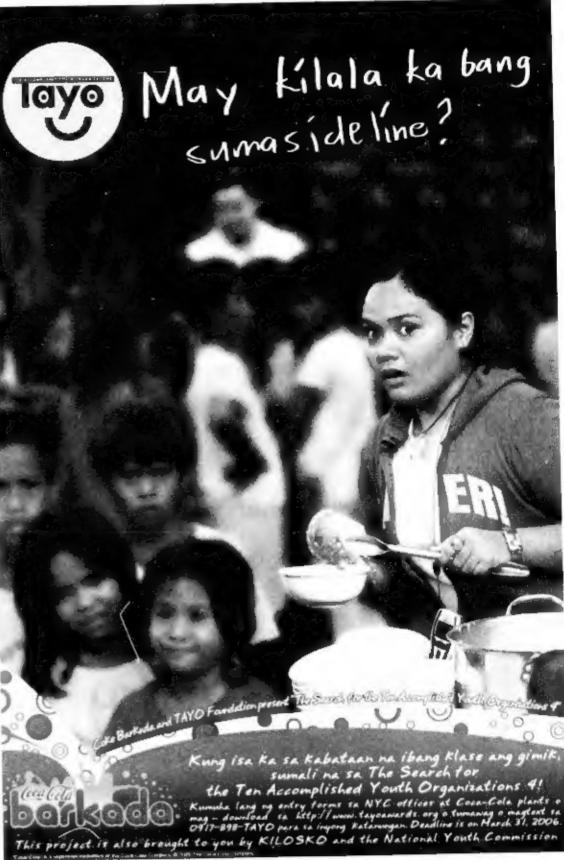
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BY JESS ABRERA

e-wall fourback at arreightquires courab

FOXTROT



YOU'RE EITHER GOING TO HAVE TO START SPENDING LESS, OR FIGURE OUT A WAY TO EARN EXTRA MONEY.

p. relegated an interpretate full interpretation and the animals

T

YOU'RE CREATIVE WHY DOES MY OD ADVICE I'M SURE YOU'LL ALWAYS SEEM COME UP WITH SONEY?? SOMETHING. HOW??

BY BILL AMEND A LIPIN



MARVIN





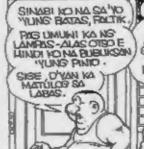
I TOLD HER TO BRING MARVIN OVER HERE AND WE'D WATCH HIM DURING THE AFTERNOON



BY TOM ARMSTRONG



PUGAD BABOY



OKAY LANG PO. SASALI MUNA AKO DU'N SA ISANS GRUPO NG MGA BATA NA NAGLALARD SA BAKANTENG LOTE SA KASIM STREET

IMPES NA BASTEBALL BAT E MERON SILANG CAGNAN NA MAY GREEK LETTERS, TARDS YUNG TAVA E PINARASO HILA NO SIGARILYO...



BABY BLUES



FAT DO ADO JAHAR PAPENTS PONT COME DOWN WITH SOMETHING! WITH THENES NOHKI



MUTTS







ATOMO AND WEBOY



BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY

MIKROKOSMOS

ANG SAMA NG TINDERO

LAYAN PARANG GUSTO

PAKAWALAN

NO MGA MAYANG KINU-

KONG BILHIN LAHAT PARA

BY STEVEN PABALINAS

MINOY

AND

MARCOS IIN HEAVEN



HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are worldly You're interested in many things. You're also highly capable. You invariably devote yourself to a worthy cause in life. Your private life is passionate and dramatic. (You're a feeler.) The year ahead is full of magical new beginnings for you. Pick a new road. Anything can happen. It's simply up to you. Birthdate of: Elizabeth Taylor, actress; John Steinbeck, author; Marian Anderson, opera singer.

something you want to improve?



ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Once a month, we have a New Moon. This is always the

best time to make resolutions or start things off on a fresh footing. This rime, it's good to get in touch with your inner, spiritual

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Are you happy with the friends you



GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Yours is a freedom-loving sign. How well do you handle authority? Examine your relations with bosses and parents. Is there



1EO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Today's New Moon offers you a chance to chserve how you react to other people's values when you don't agree with those val-



VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Today's New Moon is directly oppo-site your sign. What can you do to improve your

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Think of ways to improve how you do

your job. The reason you want to do this is so that

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to

Now 21): Although it's important to work hard,

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): What can you do to make your

you can be happier and have greater

it's equally important to relax and play Laughter will prolong your life. It also promotes the well-being of er-

ues. This is a sign of true maturity.



NAKU, MALI YON AAKALAIN NIYA, MAY "MARKET" PA SIYA AT LALO SIYANG MANGHUHULI-



DAPAT MA-PATAY PALA ANG BUSI-



BY JOMIKE TEJIDO KAYA, MAGBEBBENTA RIN AKONG MAYA, PERO MAS MURA!



BY DANIEL SHELTON

BY MANIX ABRERA

have? Today's New Moon is the perfect time to observe your friends are. What kind of friend are you to



CANCER (June 21 to July 22): No matter what your political or re-ligious views are, it's important to respect the religious and political views of others. Tolerance



iob sanisfaction.

eryone around you.

closest relationships and partnerships? Would you want to have you









DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS 1 Utasa land 6 Opposing prefix Wide-ranging 14 Ham it up

16 Archery equipment 16 Frankenstein's gofor 17 in trouble with

18 Song for Callas 19 Father 20 A long way 23 Temper

26 Predictable Westerns 27 Increasingly 31 Be of use

32 Lyricist Gershwin 33 Volvo rival 37 Art grouping 38 Explosive

39 G'dayl 40 Upper hand 41 Word on B towed 42 Abominable

snowmen 43 Running level 46 Chapeau container 50 Children's card

Actor Alejandro 52 Frequently 56 Court order 57 Cog wheel 58 One-for-one

alias 62 Roman poet 63 Nibbler 84 Studio STRUCTURES

65 Scattish toch 66 Smile densively DOWN

2 Worldwide \$

61 Superman's 23 Picture 24 Wandered almiessty 28 Emerald land 29 Capital of Belarus

6 Put to shame 7 Wrear/director

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10 Look in on

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38 Half a breath group 3 Bounce back mint? 39 Combines with 4 Ornamental water 41 Shi-sided figure CESC 5 "The _ Heart"



Saturday's Puzzle Solved SOPHIE CLERICAL UNEASY LITERATI BERNIE LEMENTS FICKS CAIRO TIS ORE WOVEN FARO SINGHALES ITEM S I N G H A L E S E I T E M
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pletiom A Server **\$5 Present Persia** 47 Come to a

O COMPANIE 48 Ship's posts 53 Actress 54 Speaker's

59 Singer Kitu

to Dec. 21): This is the best time of the entire year for you to think about how you can improve your home and your relations with your family manufact. There with your family members. That's because it's a special New Moon.

day-to-day activities flow more smoothly?
Perhaps getting up 30 minutes earlies is all you need to do. Think about it. AQUARTUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Take some time to make friends with your bank account



nancial situation.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): This is the only New Moon in your sign all year. What can you do in improve your appearance and the first impression you create on others?

and get on top of your fi-

KIKO MACHINE







LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO



TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



HOW HAS A BOOK CHANGED MY LIFE?

Manuals are for gadgets, books are for people

By Paul Gomez Hildawa

"Prayers and Devotions from Pape John Paul II," edited by Bishop Peter Canisius/Johannes Van Lierde

I WAS 7 YEARS OLD. NEWSpaper in hand, I read aloud two paragraphs of news and my Mama rewarded me P2. I realize now that I got more than P2!

The lessons of "Prayers and Devotions from Pope John Paul II" are among

I figured if I wanted instructions about life and living, there would be no better person to get it from but from the apostle of Christ-the Pope him-

The book has infused spirituality into on the highway of my life. my life, which was otherwise headed for a boring and dead-end street of rush

Gadgets need manuals. This book has become a manual for my life, my soul. I need thought- and spirit-provoking books to live life fully.

Has it changed me for the better? Tough question. Let me put it this way. It has provided me with virtual light posts Daily Inquirer's 20th unniversary.

Paul Gomes Hildawa, 35, is a lawyer.

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Heroes and superheroes

From page D1

nagmahal." Ah, that explained the Christ

There were attempts at fronic distance (at one point, the DUP Choric Ensemble deadpanned: "You ang problema sa political play, masyndong grim and determined, walang nakangiti"). But those feeble pokes, token as they were, couldn't hold a candle to the ram-

pant ideological idolatry. Joy Martil's music simply asphyxiated at this rabble-rousing. The play's strident recitatives often overwhelmed its musical sequences, despite Lanie Sumalinog's superti vocal work. So "Gabriela, An Oratorio" felt neither particularly about Gabriela Silang nor an oratorio. A harangue, perhaps?

Wistful 'Wannabes'

Ironically, while Dulsang UP nearly popped a vein with "Gabriela," Peta, the country's foremost ideologically-minded theater troupe, was settling into a wistful, introspective groove with its latest offering, "Pinoy

Here, five one-act plays explored stories of separation and disconnection—how enforced distances, often linked to economic wants, could gnaw away at the rhythms and alliances of families and relationships.

OFWs made up the narrative skein: doctors working abroad as caregivers (in "Ang Kamera ni Mang Leon" by Gamay Arkoncel-Dacanny, directed by Soxie Topacio); '70s activists ending up as menial workers in America ("Yung Plano" by Tim Dacanay and Mae Quesada-Medina); an abused wife storting afresh in a new country ("Kalat" by Tina Ma-nipis-de Guzman and Melvin Lee); two pairs of lovers befuddled by geography and mismatched plans ("Panaginip" by Vida Krisantha Nael and Phil Noble); and the Pinoy Everyman pining for a US visa ("Pasaporte" by

Janneke Agustin and Nor Domingo). Despite their topicality, these stories unfolded without much preachiness or sloganeering. They were unified only by dramatic theme and, visually, by a piece of red luggage that appeared in all the plays, an emblem of both the promise and danger of induced departures.

The best of this quintet of stories was "Yung Plano." It told the story of an OFW family's disintegration backward, from the first scene of three kids floundering in a parentless: house, to the parents' first meeting as young Mendiola activists, both flush with promise and conviction-a scene of special poignancy in light of the compromises of later years.

"Kalat" was the weakest in narrative and impact, as it covered spousal abuse in clichéd terms. "Panaginip's" staging was intricate, reflecting the tangled relations at its core.

"Ang Kemera ni Mang Leon" mined laughs from a family's changing dynamics, while "Pasaporte" mainly showcased chameleonic musical and vocal gifts of actor Ceejay Javier.

On a crowded stage, Javier made his mark along with veterans like Soliman Cruz, Gail Billiones and Richard Cunanan, and pleasing newcomers like Jason Barcial.

("Pinoy Wannabes" runs until March 4 at Center Peto Theater 7256244/7218604.)

Sweet 'Zaturmah'

Note to Darna and Super G: Your days as reigning superheroines in the hearts of Pinoy gay men may be at an end. Your most famous alter egos have hung up their costumes and become, well, mortal. One's a city mayor, the other is contemplating life as a jailbird.

Worse, an upstart has just come along to swipe your crowns. Meet ZsaZsa Zaturnah, the "5'9"-tall, 6'5" with the hair" comic-book superheroine created by Carlo Vergara, and the subject of Tanghalang Pilipino's latest musical, which has been running to packed houses at CCP's Tanghalang Huseng Batute.

Taking aim at the Darna myth, "Zsazsa Zaturnnah" turned it upside down by giving the magic stone to a lonely parlorista named Ada. Her transformation into a red-baired superhuman bombshell made for a sweet, wacky, exuberant production directed by Chris Millado.

Invaluably aided by Vince de Jesus' soul-infused music and lyrics and Sonny Aniceto's kitschy set design, "ZsaZsa" built on the highcamp spirit of Vergara's comic book to offer a funhouse mirror that celebrated the silly, over-the-top character of everyday gay-in-

flected pop culture. When Ada first became Zaturnnah, she nirst into "Babae Na Ako," a foot-stompin' ditty that came with a bevy of babes in bathrobes white wielding triirrors. The tune was a subtle nod to Thesday Vargas' novelty song, "Babae Po Ako," but scored in the big, bouncy idiom of musical theater. The scene, meanwhile, recalled a similar show-stopping sec piece in Elton John Tim Rice's and Broadway musical "Aida."

And who's to deny the low-rent glamour factor of ZsaZsa's im-



possibly named nemesis, Queen Remina Suarestellar Baroux, her ammonistas from Planet X-Nora A., Vilma S., Sharon C. and Dina B .- and their most potent weapon, the Pagoda Cold Wave Motion Gun?

The cast, led by Eula Valdes (ZsaZsa), Tuxs Rutaquio (Ada), Agot Isidro and Kalila Aguilos (alternating as Queen Femina), Arnold Reyes and Lauren Novero (Dodong, Ada's love interest) and Ricci Chan (practically a gale force as Didi, Ada's scenery-chomping sidekick), reveled in this camp-o-rama.

Thankfully, their performances were knowing but not glib, sardonic but not cynical."

"ZsaZsa" benefited from that sincere stance. It's a no-brainer that, by the end of this Day-Glo factasy, Ada/ZsaZsa would get his

man. What assured a giddy afterglow was hearing these lines sung to him:

Ikaw ang superhero ng buhay kong ito Ikaw ang Kristala at Darna ko Ang Sugo at Mulawin ko Lastikman at Gagamboy Si Volta at Captain Barbell ko Ang Super Ging buhay ko Ikaw ang superhero ng buhay ko! On the wings of such savvy pop-coated tinsel, "ZsaZsa Zaturnnah, Ze Muzikal" zoared.

("ZsaZsa Zaturnnah" runs until March 5.-Call 8323661 or 8321125 loc. 1620.)

E-mail the author at geodiz@inquir-



THE CAST of "Ang Kamera ni Mang Leon," part of "Pinoy Wannabes," Peta's quintet of one-act plays



Protect your baby's skin.



A fuller like without chopping



Dulaang UP's

"Gabriela, An

Oratorio"

Keep skin moisturized in cold weather.





Remove molerup entily.



The petroleum jelly to have (and to hold). Perfect for making life smoother and easier.

Villadolid lectures on media ethics

SENIOR JOURNALIST ALICE Colet Villadolid will deliver a lecture on "The Journalist's Code of Ethics and its Relevance to Filipino Society* on March 4, 10 a.m., in the UST Graduate School

Villadolid was executive director of the Philippine Press Institute when the Pilipino Journal ist's Code of Ethics was drafted and adopted in 1988.

The lecture-forum on media ethics completes the requirements for the grant of a Master of Arts in Communication Arts to Villadolid through equivalency and accreditation of her 54-year practice of has received the Outstanding Catholic Author journalism as a reporter for the New York Times, Newsweek Intl., Manila Chronicle,



Philippine Daily Inquirer, and now Mr.& Ms. Magazine.

The accreditation was recommended by Dean Belen Tangco of the UST Faculty of Arts and Lesters to Dean Lilian Sison of the UST Graduate

Villadolid earned a Bachelor of Arts degree, summa cum laude, and completed 40 postgraduate units in UST. She artended the International Institure of Journalism in Berlin and was certified as a media trainer. A press undersecretary under President Corazon Aquino, she

The lecture-forum is open to the public.



FROM BOOK TO FILM

'Syriana' mines explosive oil issue

By Eldric Paul Peredo

C INCE ITS DISCOVERY IN 1859, OIL has been the driving force of economies worldwide, and not only of the Middle East as your average guy on the street would think

At the beginning of the 20th century, the world was powered by coal and steam. But barely decades later, oil took over and now provides 40 percent of the world's energy, 96 percent of which is in the transportation sector.

Enter the United States of America, discoverer of the black gold, and today's biggest oil consumer as well, according to the Institute for the Analysis of Global Security (IAGS).

Around 50 percent of oil used in the US is sourced domestically, and the rest is accounted for by imports. Of these imports, only 10 percent is oil from the Persian Gulf.

Now for the punch: Oil production from reserves in non-Middle East countries have all either peaked or been steadily approaching their peak.

Powers and growing economies are turning toward the Middle East, which holds roughly 70 percent of the world's proven oil reserves. The major players: Japan, which sources 80 percent of its oil needs from the Gulf: Europe (30 percent); and growing behemoths China and India.

Thus, he who wields power over oil production in and distribution from the Persian Gulf holds one hell of a lightning bolt.

可能是公司的工作在"自己的"的问题的问题的问题

Black treasure, dark story

Such is the backdrop of the political thriller, "Syriana," starring George Clooney, Oscar winners Chris Cooper, William Hurt, Matt Damon, and a siew of other acclaimed actors, and written and directed by Stephen Gaghan, who also won the screenplay Oscar for "Traffic" (2000), another political thriller, but about the US' seemingly hopeless battle against the Mexican drug cartel.

"Syriana" is loosely based on "See No Evil," the memoirs of former CIA operative assigned to the organization's Directorate of Operations in the Middle East, Robert Beer. The book rells of how Baer saw the rise of terrorism and the failure of the CIA and ultimately the US to mot out terror cells in the Middle East. This inadequate response would eventually lead to 9/11.

In the movie, Glooney is CIA man Bob Barnes, devoted to his job and the supposed goal behind it, but estranged from his wife, and struggling to keep the faith of his son, a high-school senior. Gooney is on assignment to assassinate some arms dealers, but a Stinger missile is surprisingly taken by a customer he did not expect to be in the equation.

"Syriana," however, only takes off from Barnes' episode. It is several stories woven together to become a collection of vignettes, with the battle for Middle East oil as the connecting thread.

Cooper is Texan oil tycoon Jimmy Pope, owner of oil company Killen, which has just been granted drilling rights in Kazakhstan. But competitor Connex Oil is not as lucky;

Prince Nasir (played by London-bred actor Alexander Siddig), son of the emir and heir to the thrope of an oil-rich country, just granted the rights to a higher Chinese bid.

Hungry for oil, Connex eyes Killen and proposes to absorb the smaller company in a merger proposal. This merger attracts the attention of the US government, whose laws prohibit gigantic monopolies.

Up-and-coming lawyer Bennet Holiday (Jeffrey Wright of HBO's "Angels in Asserica" fame) is sent to investigate the merger, but with the implicit order to make sure it takes

Meanwhile, Matt Damon is oil-energy analyst Bryan Woodman, who enters the picture via a tragedy that kills his young son while they attend a party at the royal family's Spanish retreat. The boy's death pushes the envelope for Woodman, who agrees to work for Prince Nasir in exchange for ample compensation, which also amply considers the death of Woodman's son.

Woodman lets it all out, and reveals to the audience a radical face to his otherwise mild-thinking analyst. He confronts the prince head on and lectures him on the emirate's poverty-causing policy of selling oil cheap and buying processed fuel and arms at sky-high prices, which policy, however, keeps the rulers ridiculously affluent for their submission to US interests.

But Prince Nasir, British-educated, turns out to be a progressive thinker, and, in fact, plans to turn tables around come his time on



MATT Damon, George Clooney, Alexander Siddig and Prince Nasir's bodyguard in Warner Bros.' political thriller "Syriana," which also stars Jeffrey Wright

Loosely based on the memoirs of an ex-CIA man, the movie presents a dark story on the black the throne. He did favor the Chinese.

Labor factor

At the other end of this thread are the laborers laid off by the new Chinese bosses at the oil fields, like Pakistani migrants Saleem Ahmed Kahn (Shahid Ahmed) and his son, Wasim (Mazhar Munir). Their future becomes increasingly uncertain as they search in vain for work before their visas run out.

Wasim quickly becomes angry and disillusioned at this turn of events in his life. He and his friend, Parooq (Sonneli Dadral), find comfort among brother Muslims at the local madrasah, where they are taken under the wing of a charismatic brother—the one that bought the Stinger missile.

Meanwhile, Barnes is recalled to Washington, where he is given a new assignment: Kill Nasir, but for reasons Barnes is not made to fully understand.

And while all this is going on, Dean Whiting (played by venerated actor Christopher Plummer), Bennet's boss, the head of Sloan Whiring and one of the most powerful men in Washington, is trying to undo Nasia's deal with the Chinese. He knows that Nasir's younger, more callow brother, Prince Meshal (Akbar Kurtha), will be more amenable to American business interests, and he pressures the aging emir to choose his younger son to succeed him, effectively engineering Nasir's political demise.

At the end, all the characters inevitably cross paths, if not pursue paths, leading to a direct hit with each other to make for an explosive ending, but one which maintains enough questions for the viewer to resolve for himself.

Unexplored

For Gaghan, the question was obvious: What is really in the Gulf that is so precious or will become precious, when all the other of energy sources run out? It's one area that has not been explored as yet by a big-screen production.

At present, the US imports only 10 percent of its oil needs from the Gulf, but there is no telling when it will also have to largely depend on Middle East oil, considering the Bush administration (or recent past administrations, for that matter) hasn't really changed the fact that the tis is very much dependent on oil for energy or fuel. How far will it go to secure its needs?

For sure, "Syriana" will not appeal to audiences who wish to just sit back, watch and not think. The topic is very serious and brooding, difficult to understand at parts.

But it's one of those movies that make you realize the things we see and use and experience in our day-to-day lives are not as simple as they seem. We are only seeing the endse We are only the end-users

And if one is willing to devote some time to learn, the movie can show a lot. It can show that desperation can be corruptive, even deadly.

Oscar front-runner 'Capote' is story hehind 'In Cold Blood'

SONY PICTURES CLASSICS' CRITICALLY ACclaimed drama "Capote," nominated for five Oscars including Best Picture, Best Actor, Best Directox, Best Screenplay and Best Supporting Actress, will be shown exclusively at Ayala Cinemas (Glorietta 4, Greenbelt 3) starting March 1.

Helmed by first-time director Bennett Miller and written by actor-turned-screenwriter Dan Futterman ("The Birdcage," TV's "Will & Grace"), "Capote" stars Philip Seymour Hoffman as the eccentric writer Truman Capote, and Catherine Keener as his friend, "To Kill a Mockingbird" author Harper Lee.

The movie depicts the research and creative process that went into the writing of "In Cold Blood," about the murder of a Kansas family by a due of ex-convicts in 1959. The famous book, which Canote called a "nonfiction novel," revolutionized American journalism.



PHILIP Seymour Hoffman as Truman Capote



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